FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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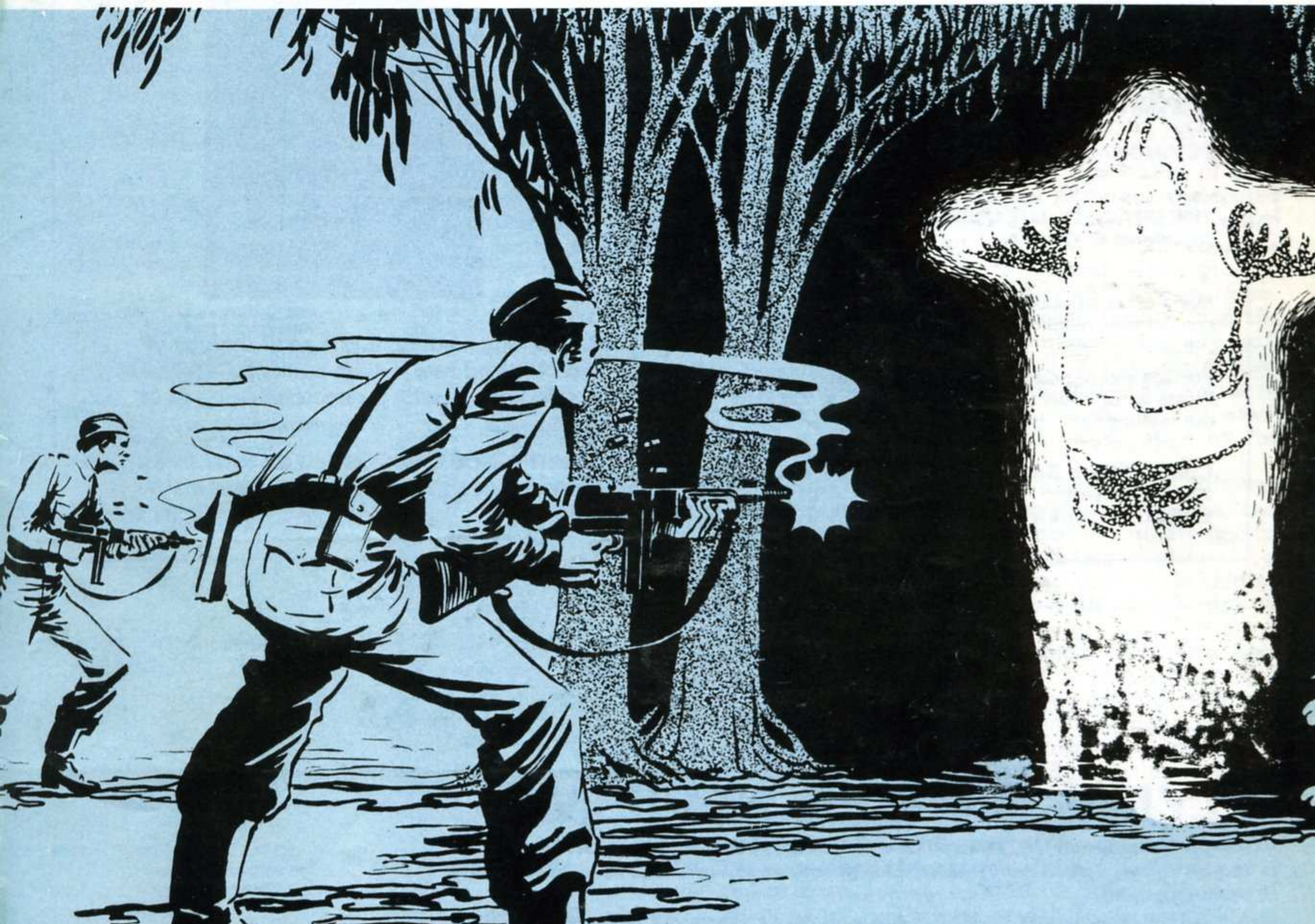

Spanish soldiers' predictable reaction to a frightening "humanoid" airfield interloper . . .

# ENCOUNTER AT TALAVERA

See page 3

Indicative of the world-wide nature of the UFO phenomenon, see in this issue

THE ARICA ENCOUNTER from Chile
VEHICLE STOP NEAR BARNARD CASTLE England
ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION AT VILA VELHA Brazil
MAPLE RIDGE "DIAMONDS" Canada

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

fsr

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# HYPOTHESES

PERHAPS the most widely-held view of the UFO phenomenon is that it is of an extraterrestrial nature; that what people are seeing and reporting every day somewhere in the world are the craft, frequently seen with occupants, which are part and parcel of some kind of alien invasion of our skies, our airspace and our land. It is popularly accepted that these craft are "nuts and bolts" hardware – a description coined in the pages of this journal many years ago – and that their occupants are probably conducting a surveillance of this planet. This, broadly speaking, is what is known as the ETH, the *extraterrestrial hypothesis.*

(There are some adherents to such beliefs who go farther than the cautious exponents of the ETH, and claim, or even *state*, that any such surveillance is conducted by "our visitors" with a view to making contact, eventually, with a purpose seemingly dominated by a wish to cure the human race of its ills, its mismanagement and its evil ways. This is merely an extension of the ETH and is frowned upon by the sober-minded propounders of that hypothesis.)

*Flying Saucer Review* has never shut the door on the ETH, although the massive nature of the phenomenon, with its widespread and prolonged manifestations over the years has seemed to militate against the idea that extraterrestrial explorers are conducting a planned reconnaisance of our planet. So, mindful of this, we have never shirked the responsibility of suggesting, or of giving space to contributors to suggest, alternative ideas on the phenomenon.

For example, since 1964, members of the present FSR team have been discussing the concept of parallel universes* – a long-held tenet of some ancient religions, an idea postulated by philosophers like Ouspensky, and pondered over nowadays by forward-thinking scientists. What if there is "seepage" into our world by the denizens of such parallel realities, with entities therefrom entering our domain by way of "window areas" (in their solid "nuts and bolts" UFOs?) – with the reverse also happening in the case of disappearances and abductions?

Or could our "visitors" – or at least some of them – be manifestations of elemental beings, or demonic creatures from a "nether" world who support their appearances among us with engaging displays of luminous objects – the sinister, yet oft-derided "Men-in-Black"? Are we witnessing glimpses of a struggle for possession between would-be controlling forces of good and evil, much as the ancients did, but now

* [In October 1964, shortly before the sad death of Waveney Girvan, and when it was known that there was little chance of his ever editing the magazine again, Company Secretary John Lade met Gordon Creighton and I at the Norwegian Club in London – our first ever meeting – with a view to finding out how we could keep the *Review* going during the interim period before a new Editor could be appointed. Table talk, after business was concluded, turned to theories about the phenomenon, and I recall that first and foremost was this idea about parallel realities, for only a few weeks earlier, FSR had carried one of the first articles about the now famous Bermuda Triangle–EDITOR].

seen in a modern framework?

Then there is always the possible ETH alternative that there are one, or two, or a mere handful of craft in orbit which are capable not only themselves of approaching close to Earth, but also of inducing in the minds of suitably sensitive witnesses images of the whole gamut of UFO phenomena, including occupants. Note that the operators of such craft could also be capable of inducing talents like healing, metal bending, automatic writing, plus an assortment of psychic phenomena. All of this possibly being part of an exercise in control.

Each of these "theories" is every bit as valid as the ETH and, like the ETH, are offered merely to stimulate thought based on the recorded evidence. Even so, the unadulterated ETH has a solid, even vocal following, and many of them have little time for anything else. And one of their oft-mentioned champions — according to some of the correspondence we see — is none other than Dr. J. Allen Hynek, one of our FSR consultants, with whom we have had long and fruitful discussions.

It is therefore with very great interest that we now read some publicly expressed views of his in *Lumières dan la Nuit* (issue No.168 of October 1977) where an LDLN member, J.L. Brochard, described an interview with the Northwestern University astronomer and former Civilian Scientific consultant on UFOs to the United States Air Force, in a piece entitled "Science confronted by the UFO phenomenon." It transpired that Dr. Hynek hoped soon to devote his full time to a study of the phenomenon wherein he thinks he sees "... a manifestation on intelligence." We quote some of the questions and answers:—

**Brochard:** Extraterrestrials?

**Hynek:** No, because that theory runs up against a very big difficulty, namely, that we are seeing too many UFOs. The Earth is only a spot of dust in the Universe. Why should it be honoured with so many visits?

**Brochard:** Then what is your hypothesis?

**Hynek:** I am more inclined to think in terms of something metaterrestrial, a sort of parallel reality.

**Brochard:** And what then is your personal conviction?

**Hynek:** I have the impression that the UFOs are announcing a change that is coming soon in our scientific paradigns. I am very much afraid that UFOs are related to certain psychic phenomena. And if I say 'I am very much afraid', this is because in our Center at Evanston we are trying to study this problem from the angle of the physical sciences... But it would be absurd to follow up only one path to the exclusion of all others.

## Miss Eileen Buckle

It is with regret that we tell readers that Eileen Buckle has terminated her association with *Flying Saucer Review.* In her letter of resignation she states quite simply that after "...a ten-year stint of working for FSR I feel it is time I had a complete break from it."

It was no secret to me that the pressures had built up against her; trying to find one's way professionally in the literary and publishing field is demanding of time and calls for Herculean effort, and for that reason Eileen was unable to devote herself to her usual make-up of pages, and production of illustrations from the beginning of Volume 23. However, she continued to deal with much of the correspondence until as recently as the end of January 1978, and for that we have been grateful.

Over the years Eileen's labours were prodigious, and she was a loyal and devoted colleague who will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her new endeavours.

C.B.

**Already established as one of the "classics" of the UFO literature . . .**

# THE CRACK IN THE UNIVERSE

by **Jean-Claude Bourret**
(translated from the French by Gordon Creighton)

The story of the great series of 39 French radio broadcasts on UFOs in 1974, with transcripts of the tapes so mysteriously stolen, and additional material. Includes many new and interesting case histories and the broadcasts of scientists Claude Poher, Pierre Guérin, Remy Chanvin, J-M. Dutuit, Jacques Vallée; the views of J. Allen Hynek (astronauts have seen UFOs), David Saunders (a parallel universe?), Gordon Creighton (the angels and the demons) and Aimé Michel (the UFOs will transform science).

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# ENCOUNTER AT TALAVERA

## MYSTERY OF THE VANISHING BULLETS AND CARTRIDGE CASES

*Juan José Benítez*

**Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton**

THIS CASE occurred in the early hours of November 12, 1976, on the Spanish Air Force Base at Talavera la Real, close to the Spanish-Portuguese frontier. It is simply staggering.

The fact that the three witnesses were obliged to remain at the Base, doing their military service, until a short while ago, made it necessary for us to keep quiet about the affair. I am now making the details of it available for the first time, having secured them myself from the three airmen concerned.

On the morning in question – at about 1.45 a.m. – José María Trejo and Juan Carrizosa Luján were on sentry duty in the so-called "fuel stock zone" of the Talavera Air Force Base and Jet Aircraft School, which lies a few kilometres from Badajoz. Each of them was in his sentry-box, some 60 metres apart, when they heard strange noises.

"At first it sounded like typical radio interference. Then, all of a sudden, in the total darkness of the night, the noise changed to a sort of acute, penetrating whistle ... so piercing that it hurt our ears..."

Their initial surprise had by now given way, as was only natural, to concern: there might be an intruder in the fuel stock zone. It might be an attempt to commit sabotage. But the penetrating whistle continued for only five minutes. Then all was quiet again.

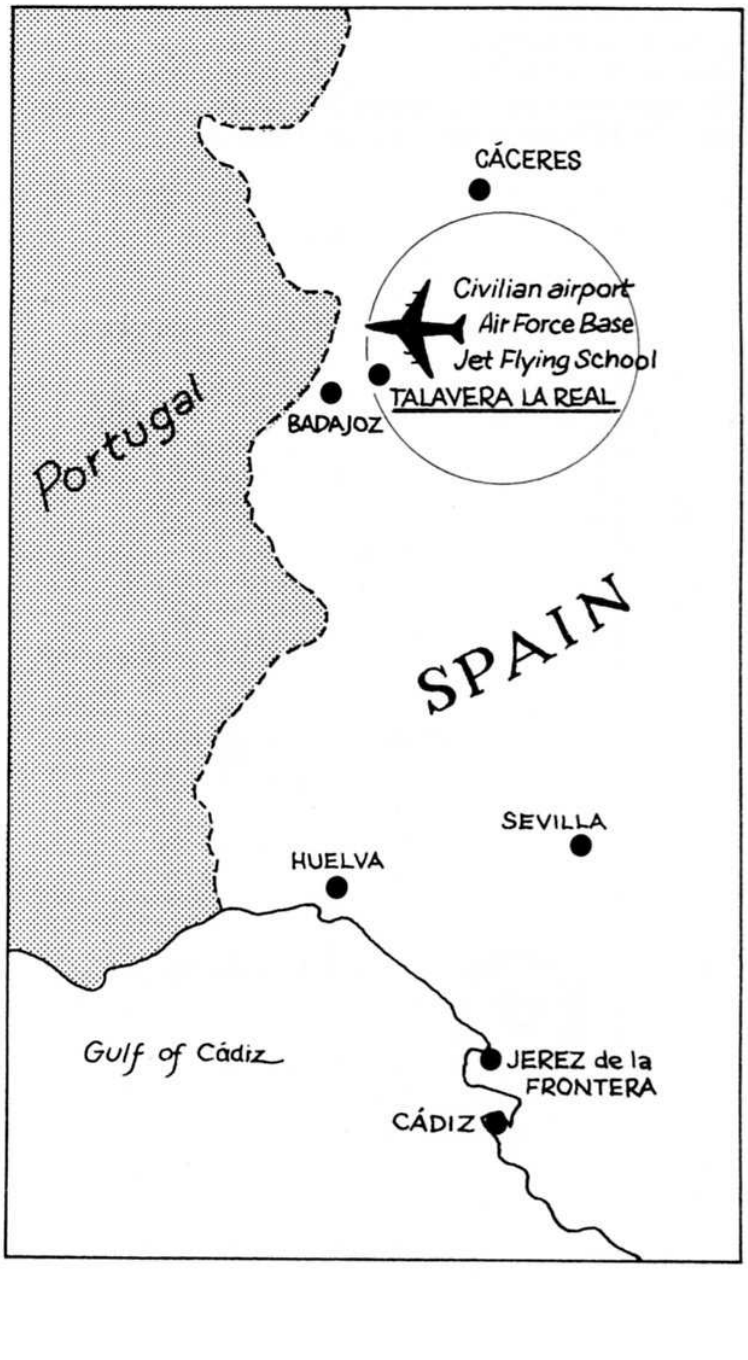
Then they heard a strange noise again, near José Trejo's sentry-box. José called to Juan Carrizosa to come over and help him to search the area. Both men were equipped with the standard rifle, the quick-firing *Z–62,* and the prescribed amount of ammunition.

Once more there was silence for five minutes, and then the whistle came again. "We thought we would go mad with it, it was so sharp, so penetrating. It seemed our ear drums were going to be ruptured."

The noise went on for a further five minutes or so. Then, silence again. But this time, as the whistling ended, they saw a light high overhead in the sky, like a flare. It lit up a wide area beneath, over towards Badajoz. It lasted for only fifteen or twenty seconds and then vanished.

A few minutes later, while the men were still getting over their astonishment, they were joined by a third sentry, José Hidalgo, with one of the Air Base's Alsatian (German Shepherd) guard-dogs. It was Hidalgo's job to make a constant tour, visiting all the sentry-posts. He asked if they had seen the brilliant glow and they confirmed that they had.

Near the two sentry-posts there is a small hut (which I saw myself later when I visited the Base). The guards and a corporal sleep there. Trejo and Carrizosa went over to the hut and sounded the alarm. The support guards were soon on the spot, under Corporal Pavón, who decided that a general search of the area should now be made. So the three soldiers, Trejo, Carrizosa and José Hidalgo, set out for the fuel stockpile. It was a totally dark, pitch-black night. They had gone about 300 metres, hugging the adobe wall that surrounds the Base,



on the other side of which lies the main road to Badajoz. All was silent round about them.

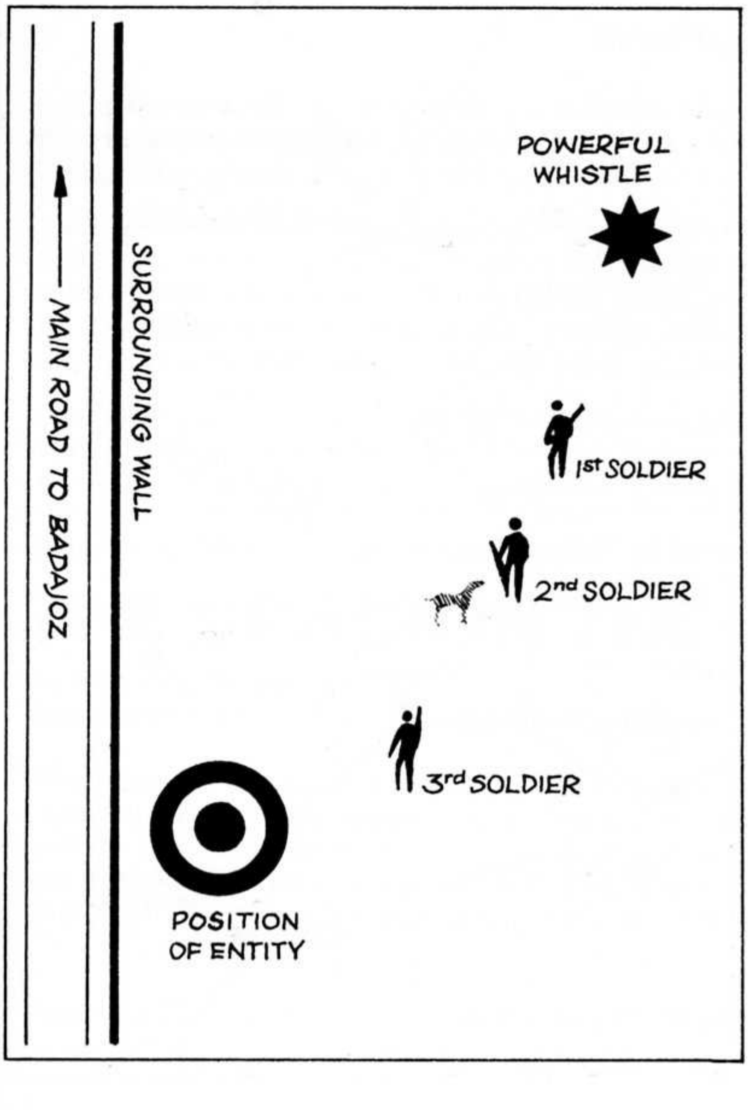
### A "whirlwind"

The dog-handler was talking about the possibility of an intruder. The dog himself however was absolutely quiet. These dogs are trained for their job, and the men drew confidence from the dog's apparent calm. Suddenly however, just as they were approaching a new sentry-box that was under construction, they experienced a sort of "whirlwind." So they loaded their rifles. And stood peering into the darkness and listening.

As Trejo explained later to me in his account of the affair, the "whirlwind" — or whatever it may have been — was loaclized in one spot.

Then suddenly they heard a sound, as of branches being broken, in a plantation of eucalyptus trees nearby. At once they loosed the dog, which dashed off into the night, towards the spot from which the sound of breaking branches seemed to have come. Gripping their rifles, the three men waited, expecting to hear the dog barking. But no bark came.

After what seemed to them an eternity but must in fact have been only a few seconds, the dog came back with them, but staggering, "as though seasick." He was reacting as though "something" or "someone" had thrashed him and terrified him...




"We were baffled. Four or five times we got the dog to go back to the eucalyptus trees. And every time he came back in just the same way... His ears seemed to be hurting... he was wimpering... Then, when he returned to us for the last time, he started circling round us."

This behaviour, as the soldiers explained to me, is something that these guard-dogs are taught to do when there is any sort of danger threatening the sentries. By circling constantly round and round them, the dogs are giving warning that something is amiss, and are placing themselves as a barrier, a protection, against whatever threatens.

When the dog began to circle around, the three soldiers became really alarmed, and felt that the time had come for them to do something. They shouted at the tops of their voices several times, but no response came out of the darkness. Nothing but the snarling of the guard-dog, moving faster and faster around them.

Then Trejo had a "sensation", as though "someone" were behind him, and felt cold shivers run through his stomach. He glimpsed a greenish light out of the corner of his eye and, wheeling around, beheld the most fantastic thing he had ever seen in his life. It was a human figure, or at least so it seemed, but very tall. Three metres at least. And only fifteen metres from them.

Attempting to re-live and recapture the experience and tell me about it, the three men said: "What was it like? Well, it was a light. A green light. Like the green colour of a match in the night."

And the strangest part of it all was that, as one of the soldiers added, the "luminous figure" seemed to consist entirely of small points of light. Along the periphery of the figure, these luminous points were more intense. The head of the apparition looked small, and seemed to be covered with a sort of helmet. The arms were long, and the body thick.

### "Like a bobbin"

I asked whether it was on the ground. Yes, it was on the ground, the men replied, but they had been unable to see either the feet or the legs. They said it was like a bobbin or spindle. Thick, and without legs. At least, they had been unable to see any.

The apparition's arms were crossed. The hands however seemed as badly defined as the feet and legs.

Trejo, who had been the first to see it, stood paralyzed with astonishment and terror. He has no idea how long it was before he could react — maybe ten or fifteen seconds, he thinks. He had his rifle at the ready, all set to shoot, but when he did decide to do so he felt as though totally bound and shackled. He was quite unable to fire. Then he started to feel, as he put it, a sensation of general weakness. He could still see and hear all right, but he had the sensation that the was slowly falling. Just before his knees reached the ground he managed to shout: "Down! They'll kill us!"

That was the last words he could utter. He was face down on the grass. He was still conscious, but there was something wrong with his eyes. His sight

seemed to be failing. It was as though everything was slowly being blotted out.

As he shouted, the other two also caught sight of the huge luminous "thing", and saw Trejo go down.

### The shots

Simultaneously, Carriozosa and Hidalgo fired at the apparition, loosing off a total of between 40 and 50 shots, all, of course, aimed straight at the gigantic figure.

Trejo, lying on the ground, heard the shots.

And instantly, in the very second that the firing began, like a photographer's "flash" — as one of the soldiers put it — or like the fading out of the image on a television screen when the set is turned off, the apparition simply vanished.

The two other men rushed to help Trejo to his feet, and once more all three heard the whistle, still from the direction of the eucalyptus trees. This time the whistle lasted for ten to fifteen seconds, after which all was again silent.

I asked Trejo to make an effort to recall at precisely what point he had started to feel ill and to feel his strength draining away.

"It's strange," he replied. "It was only when I tried to press the trigger of my rifle that I started to fall."

I asked him why he thought this "strange." Trejo reflected for a moment and then answered, as though talking to himself: "It seemed as though that 'being' had guessed my intentions. But how could that be possible? How could that 'thing' have known that I was just about to pull my trigger?"

I asked him what happened next.

"Well, my companions helped me to my feet, and gradually I recovered. My chest was painful, and that is odd too, for I hadn't fallen suddenly, nor had I been struck in the chest by my rifle."

The dull pain in his chest lasted for some fifteen to twenty minutes, and then left him.

Meanwhile, of course, the whole Air Force Base was on alert. At least half the personnel had heard the bursts of shooting.

As is understandable, the three soldiers had a difficult enough job to explain what had happened to them. But anyway, as soon as daylight came, an officer and a total of fifty men went over the whole area where the affair had occurred "with a fine comb," as the saying goes. And here is one more inexplicable detail that emerged in the course of their search. **Not a single cartridge case could be found, out of the total of forty to fifty that had been fired.** How on earth could such a thing be possible?

And, as if that wasn't already enough, to the vast amazement of the top brass of the Base, and the officers and the three soldiers themselves, **the adobe wall of the Base, which is quite close to the spot and ought to have shown the marks of most of the shots, bore not the slightest trace whatsoever of the shooting.**

The men's rifles, needless to say, had definitely been fired. This fact was confirmed by the Air Force experts who were called in to investigate the case.

**What, then, can have become of those cartridge cases and those bullets, nearly fifty of them? What was it that those sentries encountered?**

The soldiers emphasised that they had fired the shots at medium height. "We simply cannot understand how it could be that not one of the shots hit that wall which was right there in front of us!" But this was not the end of the affair.

### Sent to hospital

A few days after the incident, José Trejo walked into the Mess Hall at the Base and suddenly exclaimed: "What a poor light there is in here!"

As he explained it to me later, "My vision began to fail, until it was gone altogether. I was terrified. Then, so they tell me, they transferred me to the Sick Bay. For a quarter of an hour I reacted to nothing. I had lost consciousness. They left me in the Sick Bay, and I stayed there one day. Then I began to recover... But four or five days later they transferred me to the Badajoz Hospital. There I remained for ten days..."

I asked him what sort of treatment he was given there.

"They did lots of analyses on me: blood, urine, x-rays, hearing tests, eye tests, etc. But they found nothing. And anyway I felt quite all right by then.

"But a few days after I had come out of the hospital, it all started up again, while I was in the car with my girl-friend. Once more I was unable to see. I had to ask my girl to help me out of the car, and I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stayed like that for about a quarter of an hour more or less. Then bit by bit my sight came back again..."

I asked him how long it was from the happenings of the morning of November 12 until the recurrence. He said it was about fifteen days.

**Transferred to Madrid**

In view of this repetition of the loss of his vision, the soldier was moved to Madrid. To be precise, he was moved to the Air Force Hospital, the Hospital del Aire. He was booked in there on November 30, 1976. He remained there one month and was subjected to every manner of investigation and analysis.

I asked him what explanation the doctors there had been able to give him for his condition?

"None. They just said that I had 'a nervous maladjustment.' But I never really found out what was happening to me."

He had another "attack" of the trouble while he was in the Air Force Hospital. This time, he got a very severe headache and started thrashing up and down in the bed. And once more his sight began to fail.

I asked him what the headache was like.

"It nearly always began just before my sight began to go. First of all I would get a pain in the nape of the neck. Then in the forehead. And then finally I would go blind."

Since then it seems that the soldier José M. Trejo, who is 21 years old, has experienced no further abnormal symptoms. His state of health is perfect, and his life is totally normal.

When I interrogated the three soldiers and asked them what they thought it was that they had seen and fired at, their answer was unanimous:

"We don't know exactly what it was. But on one score we all have no doubt whatsoever — because all three of us saw it — and that is, that the 'thing' was something very much like a man, but very tall..."

So there we have it — one of the most spectacular "occupant" cases so far. And, as stated above, I have secured it exclusively as no other investigator has got it.

Many unknown factors of course still surround this fascinating case. What can have become of the bullets — almost half a hundred of them — that were fired at the "being"? How is it that not a single one of the bullets was found in the adobe wall lying immediately behind the enigmatic "being"? That the rifles were definitely fired, that is a fact. I know that for a certainty.

Weird as this case is, it must be added that certain of the features described in this report have already occurred in other cases. For example, there are those on record in which figures have appeared — generally of human form — presenting a totally non-material appearance, and with an intense luminous radiation around them. There have also been cases in which sounds were heard similar to those heard by the sentries, and where the same glow was seen in the sky. All of which leads me to the conclusion that this affair at the Military Air Base of Talavera la Real, near Badajoz, can definitely be catalogued as a case of the apparition of one of the members of a UFO 'crew.'

# VEHICLE STOP NEAR BARNARD CASTLE

*Brian Straight*

**This report is based on an investigation conducted for UFOIN. It is pointed out that the event occurred on the same evening as the Waltham Abbey affair — see FSR Vol.23, No.3.**

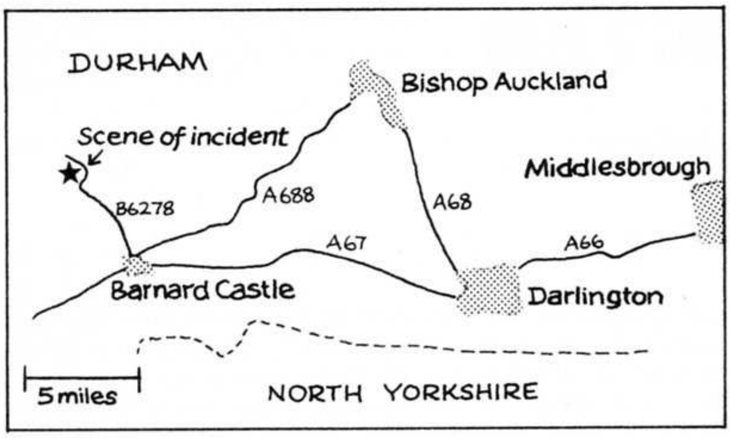
ON June 6, 1977, it was a wet and decidely in-inhospitable night in Northern Britain. The roads of County Durham were relatively quiet, but two vehicles were braving the weather to travel along the B6278 road close to the North Yorkshire border near Barnard Castle.

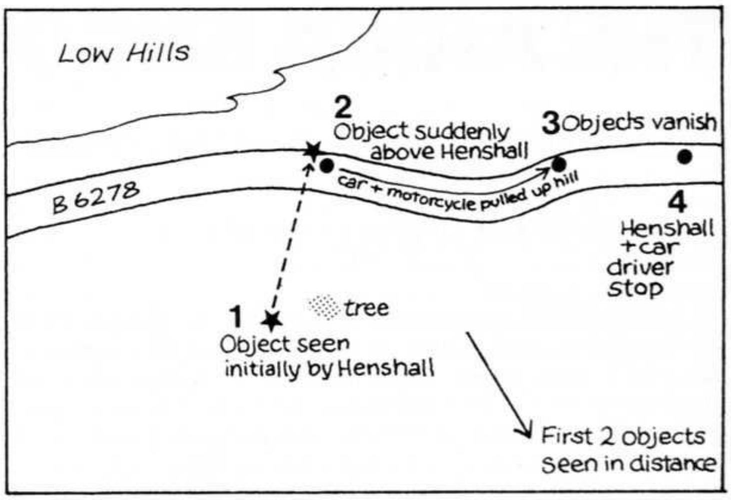
Investigators for the local group CHRYSIS [!-ED.] have been able to interview only one of these witnesses, 16-year-old farm worker Mark Henshall. They are trying to trace the other driver involved, although he has requested anonymity. He did contact the local newspaper, however, to confirm the details of Mark's account when it was featured there.

Mark was riding his motorcycle at between 30 and 35 miles per hour along a dark and rural stretch of the road when to the south he saw two distant purple objects. They looked rather like the full beam headlights on a motorcar. They appeared to keep pace with the rider for some distance and then disappeared. They had been in view approximately 30 seconds.

Looking into his rear view mirror Mark now noticed a car about to overtake him. As the car did so a brilliant light seemed to shine around both himself and the car. The light was travelling above and behind him, was pink/purple in colour, and had a solid outline which looked rather like an oval meat dish. There were no visible features on the object.

At this point Mark noticed the power beginning to drain from his machine. It continued to move forwards but in his own words: "I could not understand what was happening at first... then I moved my throttle and there was no response... I felt my back and legs becoming hot and as I looked at my jacket it was beginning to steam. I took off my glove and felt my arm and the petrol tank. They were both very hot. After both the car and myself had travelled about a hundred yards the object just disappeared."




**Above: location of incident**
**Right: the incident by stages**

Mark Henshall was interviewed by the author and two colleagues from the local group, Edwin Ollis and Malcolm Leech. He proved to be a slightly shy boy from a middle class home, with considerable interest in agriculture and little knowledge of the UFO phenomenon.

When the engine began to lose power Mark applied his brakes and the machine settled on to its forks. However, it continued to move forward as if it were being pulled along by some unseen force. On examination of the area it was found that the motorcycle was in fact pulled up over the brow of a hill about twenty five feet in height.

The next day Mark examined his brakes and discovered that they had become so worn that they needed resetting. Before the incident they had been in good order and functioned quite normally.

The investigators examined the riding clothes of the witness but found nothing unusual. A few seconds after the sighting, when Mark stopped his motorcycle, he discovered that despite the rain his clothes were in fact dry. He also said that the leather was stiffer than it had been before. Certainly the investigators found that the back of the jacket was rougher than the rest of the clothing.

The car which had overtaken Mark was affected in a similar fashion to his motor cycle. Power began to drain from it and it began to slow down, although it too continued over the brow of the hill. Mark lifted up his visor to get a better view of the object. As he did so he could clearly hear the engine slowing down in the car just ahead of him, but the object itself remained totally silent.

After the object had vanished both Mark and the car driver pulled into the side of the road to discuss the situation. The car driver was very shaken and could not explain why his car had suddenly begun to lose power. He had seen the glow which surrounded his car, but because it was high in the sky, it was blocked by his roof and he had by no means so clear a view of it as Mark.

When he returned home Mark's mother observed that his face and hands were very red and flushed. They were also hot to touch. This effect passed off within a few minutes and nothing more was thought of it. About two weeks later Mark experienced a bout of stomach trouble, which may well have had no connection at all with the incident.

The area in question consists mostly of flat land, but there are some low hills in the distance. It is at an overall height of about 1300 feet above sea level.

The weather on the night was not conducive to the formation of ball lightning and the cloud ceiling was very low. Consequently whatever was seen was at a comparatively low altitude above the road surface.

Mark proved to be a very conscientious person, and in fact he had not reported the incident to anyone except his immediate family. However, some weeks later the story was featured in the local press and carried the name of Mark's employers. Following this Mark received his notice and he wonders whether this was in part due to the public reporting of the incident. He is completely mystified as to how the press got hold of the story. It was not the other driver who reported it for he rang the press afterwards to confirm the story when he saw it.

The investigators are satisfied that this is a report of an incident which relates to the UFO phenomenon, and adds some significant details as to its electromagnetic effects. It is to be hoped that the driver of the car, which was a *Jaguar*, can be traced in the hope of recovering further details.

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# THE ARICA ENCOUNTER

A Spanish account subsequently appeared in Stendek No 29 under the title El Ovni de Putre

## CHILEAN SOLDIER'S "TRIP INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION"?

*Gordon Creighton*

ACCORDING to reports published in the press of Argentina and Chile, it appears that the first half of 1977 has been notable for a remarkable re-crudescence of UFO sightings over the southern part of the West Coast of South America, and one news-paper (*La Crónica,* Buenos Aires, May 23, 1977) noted that in fact June 1977 would see the thirtieth anniversary of the first UFO sightings over that particular continent.

Our Buenos Aires correspondent, Miss Jane Thomas (to whom I am vastly indebted not only for many pages of press extracts but also for English translations of them, which render the job of reduction and compilation far lighter and save me a great deal of time and effort) seems to feel a certain degree of doubt as to whether things "got going" in South America quite so soon as June 1947.

At first sight it seems likely that one might feel surprise and scepticism on that score, probably because so many folk imagine that June 1947 saw the start of the whole "UFO business" in the world (in the shape of the two American cases of Maury Island on June 21 and the Arnold sighting on June 24.) However many people also realise that such a view is quite incorrect. The U.S. Air Force had already had plenty of UFO reports from their own territory and also from overseas during 1946 and the first half of 1947. Leaving aside previous centuries, throughout the whole of World War II there had been a trickle of reports (not to mention the many wartime sightings of the smaller *foo fighters* and there had already been the big UFO flap over Scandinavia in 1946 with the sightings of the *ghost rockets* as these were termed at the time in the Scandinavian and British press.

So it may very likely be true that the UFO phen-omenon was also well under way in South America by the summer of 1947, and on checking my files I see indeed that José Higgins'[1] alleged encounter with some lumbering great creatures from a landed disc at Baurú, Brazil, dates from July 23 of that year – only twenty-nine days after Kenneth Arnold's sighting.

The extraordinary affair which is the subject of the present report took place in the early hours of April 25, 1977, near Putre (Arica region) in the northern tip of Chile, some 2,130 kilometres from the Capital, Santiago.

Corporal Armando Valdés of the local Rancagua Regiment of the Chilean Army (this unit comes under the Huamachuco Brigade based at Arica) was out on a routine night inspection patrol with seven soldiers in the Andes, at a spot near Pampa Lluscuma, 150 kilometres north-east of Arica. Anyone who has experienced or read about this harsh, arid part of the globe can imagine for himself just how chilly it would be at such a place on the bleak *puno* lands, at 4.00 o'clock in the morning and at an altitude of not less than 4,000 metres. The seven conscript soldiers with Valdés were named in the press as Humberto Rojas, Iván Robles, Germán Riquelmo, Raúl Salinas, Pedro Rosales, Juan Reyes, and Julio Rato. Five of them were huddled against a *pirca* (dry-stone wall) beside the fire. The other two men were on watch, a few metres distant.

At about 4.00 a.m. Rosales, who was one of the sentries, came running over to report the appearance of two large violet-coloured lights which had descended from the sky and one of which was still in sight, about 500 metres from them, very low, and bathing the whole area around in its vivid glow.

This light seemingly began to make for the party, so the corporal ordered his men to screen off the fire with blankets, presumably with the thought of avoiding detection. The great light was totally silent, and they could now see that it had "two red dots" on each side. After moving nearer to them, it began to move away again.

At this point Corporal Valdés got up and decided to go forward and investigate the light. He looked at his watch. It showed 4.15 a.m. As he explained later to the press, he stepped over the dry-stone wall and, calling upon God for protection, started walking towards the light, shouting as loudly as he could, challenging it, asking who or what it was, and bidding it depart. He was still only a matter of a few metres from the camp fire and his men, all of whom were watching him. And then suddenly he simply van-ished before their eyes.

Corporal Valdés recalls nothing of what happened to him after that. He only knows that at about 4.30 a.m. he became aware that he was lying beside the fire again, but feeling very, very strange. Then he blacked out once more.

### The mystery of the corporal's beard and wrist-watch

When the corporal came to his senses again after his second black-out, he was still totally incapable of giving any account of what had happened. He seems to have spent about fifteen minutes away from the men. As the men have testified, and as his superior officers have corroborated, Corporal Valdés had shaved but a short while before going out on the night patrol. His appearance was as it should be, and everything about him was in order.

**He now had a beard which was the equivalent of five days' growth. (As Valdés himself emphasised later when talking to the newspapermen, this was**

all the more incredible, inasmuch as beards grow abnormally slowly up there on the high Andean plateaux.)**

It was about 7.00 a.m. when the corporal came out of his second swoon. He promptly gave orders for the party to return to their unit to report on the events of the night.

**And now came the second discovery. Not only had his wrist-watched stopped showing 4.30, the time of his experience with the light, but the calendar date indicator on the watch now showed not April 25 but April 30. It had advanced by five days.**

Soon after leaving the scene of these events, Corporal Valdés and all his men were interviewed by a local gentleman, Professor Pedro Araneda of the settlement (largely Indian) of Putre. Professor Araneda, who seems to have been very knowledgeable on the subject of UFOs, took the precaution of tape-recording his interviews with the corporal and his men.

This is fortunate, because as soon as the patrol were back at their base and had reported the affair officially, Colonel Oscar Figueroa, Governor of Arica Province, at once issued an edict prohibiting the publication of anything about the case in the local papers unless it had first been submitted to his office for scrutiny. This action, the Governor explained, was taken "in order to avoid press speculations lacking a scientific basis."

Governor Figueroa also confiscated Professor Araneda's tape of the interviews with the corporal and his men, but this did not prevent the story leaking out into the press very rapidly, as the Professor had already managed to distribute parts of it to newsmen. (The first paper that got the story, *La Estrella,* published in Arica, was forced by the Governor to withdraw the whole transcript of what the corporal and his men had said.)

Meanwhile, away down south in Santiago, the Capital, a spokesman for the Chilean Ministry of Defence announced that the affair was being investigated intensively. Gradually the story penetrated the whole press of Chile and Argentina, and created a sensation. All the attempts to hush it up had failed.

### The "Message"

According to the soldiers of the patrol, there was however yet one more astonishing thing to relate. When Corporal Valdés suddenly re-appeared among them – neither he nor they were able to explain quite how – he was murmuring over and over again, and with difficulty, the words *"You don't know who we are nor where we come from ... we will soon return."*

In a statement given subsequently to the press by Corporal Valdes, he emphasised that he was most anxious to have the affair fully investigated. He told newsmen: "The events which I have related lay me open to being taken for mad. But I am not mad. And the soldiers who were there with me also witnessed the apparition. I want to recover the memory of those missing fifteen minutes, and I would even be prepared to submit myself to hypnosis in order to ascertain the facts and clear my mind of the uncertainty as to what took place."

However, on April 21, it was announced in the Argentine press (*La Crónica,* Buenos Aires) that a Chilean UFO investigation group at Temuco[2] had warned Corporal Valdés that it would be extremely dangerous for him to retrieve the details of his UFO experience by means of hypnotism, and in support of their argument they quoted the sad case of the young Argentinian truck driver Dionisio Llanca who had had an encounter with entities and had also been hypnotized, in the hospital at Bahía Blanca, by an investigation team of twelve doctors and psychiatrists, and who was now completely insane.

**References**


1. See Case No.1 of "The Humanoids in Latin America" in *The Humanoids* edited by Charles Bowen (Neville Spearman Ltd., 1969; also Henry Regnery Co., Chicago; more recently as a Futura paperback, 1977).
2. Centro de Investigaciones Espaciales, Temuco.

**Newspapers consulted:**
*Clarín* (Buenos Aires) May 20, 1977
*La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) May 19, 21, 23 and 24, 1977.
*La Razon* (Buenos Aires) May 19 and 20, 1977.
*Sunday Express* (London) May 26, 1977.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**

(Vol. 23, No. 6) . . .

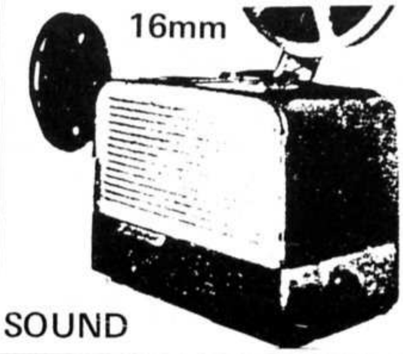
**The Aveley Encounter** — *Andrew Collins*

**A "Flying Humanoid in Puerto Rico** — *Sebastion Robiou Lamarche*

**Stack Rocks Humanoid Display** — *Randall Jones Pugh*

**AND MANY OTHER REPORTS**





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# SHAPE-CHANGING UFO AT LAINDON

*Andrew Collins*

**Another report made during the British wave of 1976/77, and investigated by Mr. Collins, an independent researcher in S.E. England, for UFOIN. Submitted in June 1977, the report has been held over due to pressure of events.**

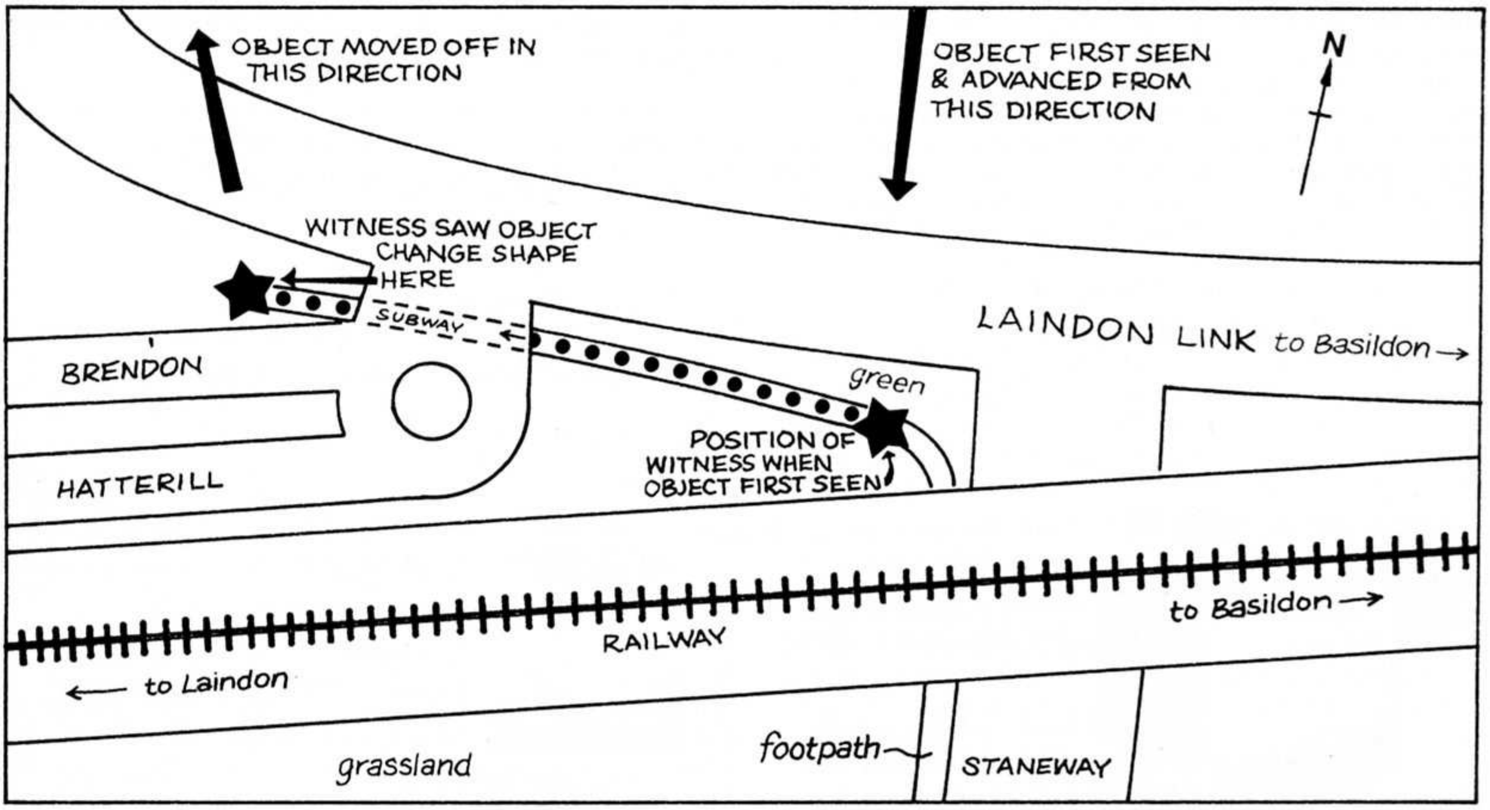
NOTIFICATION of this sighting came at 14.00 hrs. on May 23, 1977, from P.C. Smith of Basildon Police, after he had received a telephone call from a Mr. Jackson of 108 Brendon, Lee Chapel North, Laindon, Essex, who reported that the boy next door, a Stephen Sambrook, had been badly frightened by an object the previous evening. The Police had logged the sighting with basic details but did not take any further action, other than to contact myself.

**Account**

The witness had been to see his girl friend at Westley Heights, and was on his way home walking along the Staneway Road. He carried on down almost to the end of Staneway until it had almost ended, and then cut across the small green by the footpath that eventually goes under Laindon Link road as a subway. The time was about 22.20 BST. Just then he caught sight of a large yellow sphere in the sky towards the north. It was moving to the right, and appeared to have a faint aura, also yellow in colour, surrounding its periphery. It moved slowly and did not pulsate or make any noise, but suddenly it stopped, and appeared to remain stationary for a few seconds. Then it started to move upwards, slowly at first, then very fast, until it again stopped in a clear part of the sky.

The frightening experience came next, for the object shot straight towards the witness, and it was at this point that he lost sight of it as he passed through the 100 ft. subway. On reaching the other end of the subway he saw the object was within 200 ft. of him, and he could see that it was in fact spinning on its vertical axis. Suddenly a noise like "the air brakes of a lorry" was heard all around, and the object discontinued [*sic*] like "a light bulb being switched off." The noise lasted for about four seconds and after a few more seconds the object reappeared a little to the left of where it had discontinued.

This time it appeared as a vertical cigar shape with a large deep red pulsating light at the top. The cigar was dark in colour, but when the red light was on, a silvery grey colour could be seen in its central area,




**Position of witness during incident of May 22, 1977**

and also at ts centre two black outlines like windows could be seen. It appeared slightly smaller than the sphere. The cigar was moving to the left and away from the witness and after a minute or so, was lost from sight over a wooded area in the north-west. After it had disappeared the witness walked the rest of the journey to his home, which took about four minutes.

### After effects on witness

Mrs. Sambrook, his mother, recalls that her son arrived home about 22.30 and had gone straight up into her bedroom and asked: "Do you believe in UFOs?" With this, his parents got out of bed to see what was wrong. They could see that he was physically shocked and frightened and, not completely in control of himself, kept mumbling "It changed, it changed." His mother then took him downstairs, made him coffee and also telephoned the doctor, who gave permission for her to give him Prothiaden P-25 sedative tablets that a neighbour had been prescribed some time ago. The doctor saw Stephen the following morning, and found nothing wrong with him, although he prescribed him further tablets of the same kind, and told him not to go to school for a week. The witness had not been drinking before the encounter.

**Notes**

**Southend Airport** received no unusual reports for that night, and stated that no aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

The weather conditions at 22.00 BST on May 22 were as follows:–

The wind was 030° at 11 knots, visibility was 25 km.

Air temperature was 13.9C and there was 2/8 cloud at 25,000 ft.

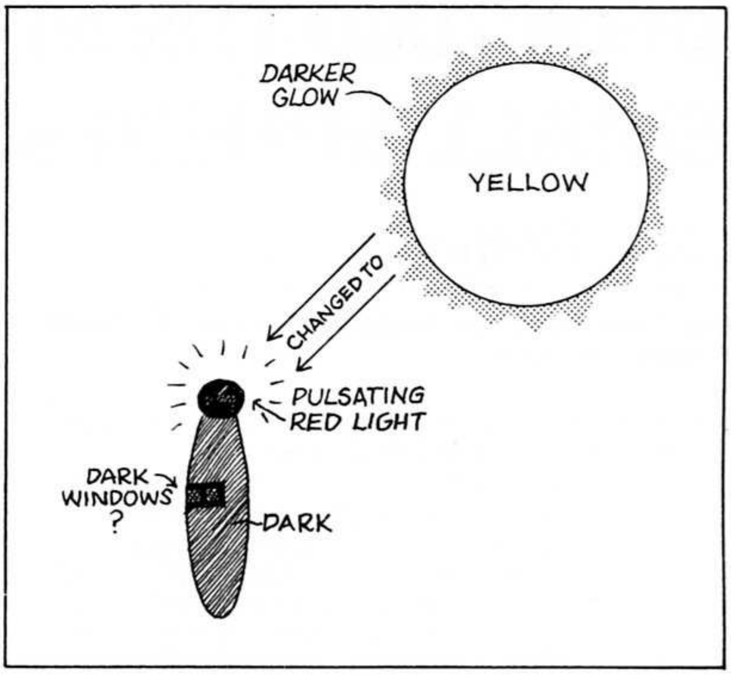
### Further sightings

Since the initial incident Stephen has seen odd things on four separate occasions, the first of these at 22.05 on May 24. He was again walking along the Staneway, when he glanced up and noticed, high up, a yellow "Sphere" moving along. It was in view for only a few seconds before being lost over the horizon to the North West.

After this sighting, Stephen and a friend named Kevin Clark, aged 15, of Laindon decided that they would "Skywatch" during the evenings from then on, at a suitable vantage point called Mud Hill in Lee Chapel South, and during the evenings of the 26th and 27th of May they saw a total of 11 different unexplainable objects cross the sky.

The first of these was on the 26th at 22.25 when they saw a yellow oval light shoot across the sky from North East to North West. It was in view for only 4-5 seconds. A similar object was seen at 22.38 moving in the opposite direction, this time travelling at a slow pace. Similar objects were also seen at 22.47, 22.48, 22.50 hrs.

At 22.56 a dark object was seen in the south-west, and on looking at it through binoculars, an oval shape could be discerned in the centre of which there appeared to be a black spot. It was stationary when




**Sambrook sighting at Laindon: the shape change**

first seen, but after a few seconds began to move away to the left, and appeared to change into what looked like a cigar case attached behind a large spherical pulsating red light. The object was lost from view in the south, and concluded the sightings for that night.

The following night of May 27, five objects or lights were seen between 21.47 and 22.34, all were described as "Yellow spheres" (although it is thought LITS* would have been more appropriate) except for the last one, which was described as a red flashing light changing to green. No more sightings occurred until 22.15 on Tuesday June 7, when a yellow LITS was seen. Stephen was again on his way home from his girl friend's house, and was again walking along the Staneway, when he noticed the light moving vertically upwards. It passed behind a cloud base and disappeared after about 30 seconds.

No other sightings have occurred to date.

### Conclusions

I found Stephen a very open and sincere boy who could well be described as "One of the lads." I would not have thought he would have been easily frightened. I gather he has had one or two phychic experiences, and has had a few premonitions which have come true, although these were some years ago.

I am prepared to believe that on May 22, Stephen was subject to a very frightening experience involving an unidentified object. This is due to three reasons. First there was a sighting of a very similar object to the one seen by the boy, at Barking (which is 20 miles away) only four minutes before this incident. Secondly, the statement from his mother of the state the witness arrived home in, and thirdly the strangeness of the incident.

* LITS: Lights in the sky.

*(Concluded on page 13)*

# UFOs AND THE MYSTERIOUS SMALL SPHERES

*Jean Bastide*

**Our French colleague prepared his article in English. It has been edited by Gordon Creighton**

ACCORDING to the American Ufologist James M. McCampbell, "When witnesses report a UFO sighting which involves an object moving near to the surface of a body of water, they may describe a ripple effect on the water, which ripple appears to have been caused by the object. The UFO researcher should be interested in studying the possible cause of this effect, and what this may suggest about the nature of UFOs."[1] And we must bear in mind that, although no definite conclusions can actually be reached at present regarding the means of propulsion and the effects produced by UFOs, science can nevertheless still serve us in some degree as an instrument for resolving the UFO enigma. As we shall now see, such ripples could, for example, prove to be a key effect that might serve to explain still stranger effects.

On October 21, 1963, a very curious UFO sighting occurred near the town of Trancas in Argentina. It has been described for us by Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez in his article *Trancas, After Seven Years.*[2] In this article he described how, beneath the air-space where "object 'f' " (one of the six UFOs in the case) had been rocking to and fro within a circle some 28–30 ft. in diameter, the witnesses discovered a perfect small cone-shaped heap, 3 ft. high, and consisting of innumerable little white balls half-an-inch in diameter. Next day, furthermore, they discovered more of these little white spheres on the railway line, where the rest of the UFOs had been seen, though here the spheres were not in such vast quantity as in the garden where the "cone" was found.

The little white spheres were found to crumble under gentle pressure. The head of the chemical laboratory of the Institute of Chemical Engineering in the University of Tucumán, Sr. Walter Gonzalo Tell, carried out an analysis of them, which showed that they contained 96.4% of calcium carbonate and 3.51% of potassium carbonate.

Now, we should bear in mind that the witnesses had described the UFO designated as "object 'f' " as a solid body, some 28 to 30 ft. in diameter, its surface appearing to be of metal resembling aluminium. They said moreover that it was at a height of less than five feet from the ground, that it was rocking to and fro without revolving, and that "a whitish mist was coming out of its lower extremity." This whitish mist "gave off a penetrating odour resembling the smell of sulphur."[3]

Let us look now at another case, namely the landing at Glassboro', New Jersey, USA. Two teenage boys, sons of Mr. Ward C. Campbell, a prominent Glassboro' citizen (and a man who had received a technical education), were fishing in a pond one day, at a place that their father had forbidden them to visit (i.e. the pond was on someone else's property), when they were approached by two tall young men with long hair and bare feet. These slim, blond young men greatly impressed the two teenagers. One of the features that had struck them particularly was the men's beautiful (non-pimply) fair compexions."

As Dr. Berthold Schwarz described the episode in his account,[4] "this meeting was unusual for the time of the year and for the place, and for the fact that the soil there was gravel and contained a lot of broken glass (the two men being barefoot). Also, in a small town, everyone knows everyone else. This was before the time of the 'hippies.' The two young men were total strangers. They asked the teenage poachers about UFOs, and specifically wondered if they were interested in seeing one. The long and the short of it is that, soon afterwards, almost before their very eyes there occurred a widely observed and well documented UFO landing (we may discount the ludicrous attempt that was made at a cover-up), *and the deposit of some whitish powder-like substance that was originally the size of golf balls,* but which shrunk down. When a policeman picked up some of the powder, he dropped it quickly, in surprise, for it was as cold as an ice cube. It retained the cold feeling for at least 24 hours."

The two teenage boys were reluctant to tell their strict father about the affair, not only because of the weird nature of their encounter with the tall, long-haired men, but also because they had arrived home late. And they were also fearful of being reprimanded for fishing where they were not supposed to have been.

Now we can note several important points in connection with the cases at Trancas and Glassboro'.

1. In both cases the small white balls seem to have been of a uniform size, as though there were a strictly defined weight which could not be exceeded.
2. In both cases the balls are described as *whitish* and *crumbly*, and consequently as consisting of a *powder.*
3. We may also note that, at any rate in the Trancas case, the heap of white balls formed a *cone*, as if the balls were produced by an *axially symmetrical field,* such as, maybe, a *magnetic field.*

We may reach the following simple conclusions about these two reported cases:—

The UFOs are able to create an antigravitational field, axially symmetrical, and more powerful at the centre, and leading to the formation of small spheres composed of powdered soil attracted and conglomerated together by an effect roughly similar to what occurs in Outer Space, when particles are conglomerated together to form spheres, the gravitation being near to zero (independently of the well-known effect of surface tension for liquids).

The process whereby the small spheres are produced might, I suggest, possibily be as follows:

Stage 1: the powdery soil is sucked up and starts to conglomerate.

Stage 2: the size (weight) limit having been reached, the balls drop to the ground, *being now too heavy to be attracted.*

We must of course envisage the UFO's antigravitational field as being strongest in the centre, diminishing outwards towards its periphery. The field is to be envisaged as constant and unchanged in area during the relatively short period of time in which the UFO is stationary over the site.

As regards the contents of the white spheres, identified as being calcium carbonate and potassium carbonate, we should remember that ordinary soil is very rich in carbonates. Owing to wind erosion and drying processes, it is very friable and crumbly, thus yielding plenty of powder for the little globes. Another possibility that we might envisage, moreover, is that the force-field of the UFOs might perhaps actually induce the formation of calbium and potassium carbonates, by drawing the calcium and potassium from the soil and combining it with the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere.

Finally, we must ask ourselves why it is that so few cases of these small white balls seem to have been reported? The probable answer, perhaps, is that certain factors are required to be present to create the ideal conditions, as regards the atmosphere and as regards the composition of the soil, for the phenomenon to occur. It is to be hoped that in due course fresh cases will yield further data which will strengthen our hypothesis. One interesting point to be noted from the Trancas case at any rate is that the cone of white balls there reached very nearly up to the base of the UFO itself, for it was no less than 3 ft. high, the UFO being suspended at an estimated height of 5 ft.

### References


1. See *Skylook* (now *MUFON UFO Journal*), No. 94, September 1975. James M. McCampbell, *Microwaves and Water, Scientific Deduction and UFO Investigations.* McCampbell's well-known book, *Ufology*, has recently been republished in a new edition by Celestial Arts, 231 Adrian Road, Millbrae, Calif. 94030, USA.
2. See FSR, Vol.17,.No.3, p. 18, Oscar A. Galíndez: *Trancas After Seven Years.* Also: *OVNIS, Un Desafío a la Ciencia,* Ano 1, Nov/Dec. 1974, No.4, p.7. "Debago del sitio en que se balanceó aquel objeto, y dentro de un círculo de 8 a 10 metros de diámetro, comprobaron la existencia de innumerables bolitas blancas de 1 cm. diámetro." In his book *Los OVNIs ante la Ciencia,* Dr. Galindez also mentioned that the white balls formed a perfect cone, "un perfecto cono de un metro de altura." (p.89.)
3. See FSR Vol.17, No.3, *op. cit.* Also *OVNIS, Un Desafío a la Ciencia,* p.5, where Dr. Galíndez describes the penetrating odour resembling sulphur, and he also gives (p.4) the distance of the base of the UFO from the ground as scarcely 1.5m.
4. See *MUFON 1974 UFO Symposium Proceedings,* Akron, Ohio, June 22, 1974, Case 6 (p.92.)


## SHAPE-CHANGING UFO AT LAINDON

*(Continued from page 11)*

The further sightings by Stephen are another matter, I believe most, if not all were misinterpretations of common objects such as aircraft, satellites, and stars. Although the object seen at 22.56 on May 26, is almost exactly the same as the object seen near the greyhound racetrack at Walthamstow, East London in February of this year, it also resembles the object seen by himself on May 22 after the "Change."

This report must be compared with other similar cases where the witness will have an initial encounter then continue to see LITS ever after. The one case that sticks in my mind is that of Russell Smith, who since early 1975 has seen more than 300 'UFOs' mostly of the LITS variety.

It would be hard for me to speculate why the object seen on May 22 advanced to within 20 ft. of the witness then changed its complete appearance, although of course this has been noted in several past cases.

No further witnesses have come forward to corroborate this encounter, although we do have enough evidence to put this very odd event on the record.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# ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION AT VILA VELHA, BRAZIL?

*Walter Buhler MD.*

**Our contributor is President of the Brazilian Society for the Study of Flying Saucers (SBEDV), Rio de Janeiro. Translation from the Portuguese original, which appeared in SBEDV Bulletin No. 112/115 (April 1977).**

THE SCENE of this episode was Vila Velha, a town near Vitória in the Brazilian coastal state of Espirito Santo, and the date was February 3, 1973. The student Samuel Faria, aged 26, was sitting in his room at midnight, reading a magazine, when he heard a strange sound coming from the garden of the house. He described it as sounding like *boo-o-ong, boo-o-ong.* But then it turned into a sort of chirruping repeated at intervals of approximately one second.

There was nobody else in the large old house at the time except for Samuel's aunt, wife of a lawyer named Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza. This Dr. de Souza happens to be a radio ham, with his own call-sign, PY–1XO.

Samuel shouted to his aunt and, awakening with a start, she got out of bed and came down and joined him. Together they went to a window overlooking the garden. From this window, they were able to observe a yellowish light, quite close to the house, and a number of "points of light" about six metres or so from the ground. Then they heard what seemed to be the sounds of voices coming from the garden, and consequently Samuel felt that the explanation must be that somebody was playing a radio in the garden.

Then there came a knock on the kitchen door. By now, both Samuel and his aunt were convinced that there must be a thief prowling about out there, so they decided upon a plan of action. Samuel was to open the kitchen door and step out into the garden, armed with a gun, while at precisely the same moment the aunt switched on the garden light.

At first all went according to plan. Having flung open the door, Samuel advanced one metre or so into the garden. Then he halted, scared to death, petrified. After a moment of hesitation, he threw down the gun and fled back into the house without even remembering to shut the door behind him. He rushed straight to his room and jumped into bed.

The cause of his terror was that, out in the garden, he had seen a luminous orange-coloured ring (No. 181M on the Letrafilm table of colours) hanging at a height of about 20 metres above his uncle's radio mast and lighting up the whole garden as brightly as though it were midday. He said later that he estimated the diameter of the ring as maybe two metres.

The moment that he caught sight of the ring, Samuel felt an intense sensation of heat. "It was like being inside a furnace," he said.

Looking out again through the window of the bedroom where he had taken refuge, Samuel now beheld what seemed to be smoke drifting towards the nearby Convento da Penha. This establishment, about 350 metres or so from the de Souza house, stands on a hill lying beyond the garden.

Thoroughly alarmed by now, when Samuel had told her about the luminous ring and the smoke, Sra. de Souza also shouted for help, and a neighbour, a 40-year-old businessman named Roberto, came running over to the house.

Half an hour later Samuel, now calmer, ventured out into the garden again, accompanied by Roberto. They neither saw nor found anything abnormal there – except for one curious thing. They discovered that the copper wire of the radio aerial had been severed. At the two severed ends the wire showed a deposit of black dust covering a segment of some 20 cm. or so of the wire. (The investigator's report describes the aerial as of the AW6 type, with copper wire two or three millimetres thick.) The damaged aerial was duly repaired by Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza, the amateur radio fan.

When the SBEDV investigators came and looked into this case, they took down the aerial from the roof in order to inspect the break in the wire closely. They gave their opinion that it seemed to have been severed by some instrument resembling scissors.

The investigators discovered furthermore that, earlier on the same evening on which Samuel had had his alarming experience, he had seen a "small red ball" in the sky, seemingly at a considerable distance, and moving away eastwards. On that same evening, too, they discovered that the son of the family in the house next door to the de Souzas had seen the same thing, a "small red ball," and quite independently.

Furthermore, according to a report in the newspaper *A Gazeta* of Vitória, a gentleman named Maurício Goncalves at Cobi de Cima had seen a "big reddish half-moon emitting an enormous ring of white smoke."

But there was still more to come!

### "They" return . . .

Thirtysix days later, that is on March 11, 1973, between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m., Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza and seven others of the family were in the kitchen when they heard desperate cries coming from Samuel, who had just gone out, a few seconds prev-

iously, to take a bath in the bath-house located at the end of the garden.

Everyone rushed in alarm to the door, only to encounter Samuel tearing back in great disorder, banging his head on the door and colliding with Dr. Walter, who saw at once that his nephew's face was white with terror.

"What's the matter" they all cried.

Samuel, clad only in a pair of trousers, was trembling. He sat down on the floor and related what had happened.

Returning from the bath-house, he had picked up his shoes from a pile lying in the passage leading to the servant's room. And then he had gone back again to the bath-house to make quite sure that he had locked the door of it securely. Then, turning back once more towards the house, and when he was not more than four metres or so from the kitchen door, he felt himself seized by the arms, raised about 20 cm. into the air, and pulled backwards. He let out a yell, and fought desperately to free himself. It was at this point that he collided with a papaya tree that stands there, and fell on to a packing case lying in front of the kitchen door. Free now of the claws that had been gripping him, he made his dash for the house.

Naked as he was, apart from his trousers, the red marks on the upper part of both arms were clearly visible to all. They were in the shape of parallel striae some five cms. long, and gave the appearance of having been caused by the pressure of helicoidal plates.

SBEDV investigator Marcos Alexandre Fundão took photographs of these marks, and one of his pictures was published next day in the newspaper *A Gazeta* in Vitoria, under the headline: *"Claw-marks on the victim of an attempted abduction at Vila Velha."*

Samuel told Alexandre Fundão that the marks had given him absolutely no pain, either at the moment when they were inflicted, or subsequently. Nevertheless the red marks remained for eight months before finally vanishing. First they turned brown, and then gradually faded from sight. *They resembled burns, but burns that were painless.*

When, early in November 1973, the SBEDV investigators began to probe this case, further things came to light. For example, they found that, on October 25, 1973 – several days prior to Samuel's first experience in the garden – he and his aunt had both heard the same sounds – like many voices speaking at once – coming from that direction, and also another sound which resembled static on the radio.

The time was about 11.00 p.m., on October 25, 1973, and the phenomenon lasted about twenty minutes.

**No TV interference**

However, there seems to have been no electromagnetic interference on the last occasion of all, March 11, 1973 (i.e. the night when Samuel was "seized" by the "claws"). The TV was switched on at the time, and no disturbance of its working was noted by anyone. Likewise, the investigators found that Samuel's wristwatch seemed to have suffered no ill effects and had not stopped.

As regards Samuel himself, they found no evidence that his health had been impaired. His weight, which had been 68 kg., shot up to 78 kg. and remained at that level for some months, and then returned to 68 kg.

**Further Developments: encounter with an entity**

Slightly over a year later, SBEDV received a letter from Samuel Faria, reporting that he had had a fresh contact. Accompanying this letter came a report from the SBEDV investigator Marcos Alexandre Fundão, describing these new happenings, which were as follows:—

On the night of May 1, 1974, between 11.00 p.m. and midnight, Samuel was returning home from the centre of Vila Vehla when, just as he reached the street block where his house stands, he caught sight of "a little man" near the corner of the street, which was of course quite deserted at that hour of the night. The "little man" was no more than about 1 metre 30 in height, Samuel estimated, and was clad in clothing "of astronaut type." When Samuel first spotted him, the "little man" was at a distance of some 26–30 metres from him. But Samuel continued to approach him, until they were no more than 10 metres or so apart. Then the "little man" brought into operation an instrument which he was carrying in his hand. Samuel says this instrument resembled an electric torch. The "little man" pointed it at him, and shot a beam of light into his eyes which blinded

**Our artist's copy of sketch sent by Sr. Fundão**

him temporarily. At this point Samuel was still 20 metres or so from the front door of his uncle's house, but, blinded as he was, he made a dash for it, and arrived indoors terrified and told the rest of the family what had happened.

When he had got over the shock to some extent, he went back on to the street, accompanied by the family, but of course everything out there was now totally normal, with no sign or trace of the "little man."

Enclosed with his report, Sr. Marcos Alexandre Fundão also sent to SBEDV a sketch of the "little man", made by an artist, on the basis of Samuel's oral description.

**Source References**

The newspaper *A Gazeta* (Vitória) February 14, 1973. Article headed: "UFO appears at Vila Velha for second time." Also *A Gazeta* of March 12, 1973. Article headed: "Attempt to abduct resident of Vila Velha by means of claws."

# A FRENCH PARALLEL TO THE VILA VELHA ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION

*Gordon Creighton*

IT is surprising that Dr. Buhler should consider that Samuel's health or physical state showed no effects as a result of his unpleasant experiences, since we are told that his weight shot up by no less than ten kilos, and remained at that level for several months! Surely this indicates, at the very least, that Samuel's metabolism was probably completely haywire for a while!

As regards the matter of whether similar instances have occurred, I might mention briefly an extraordinary case which is probably known to very few English-speaking researchers (it has never appeared in FSR), and which took place in a village near the River Loire, in central France, at about 4.00 p.m. on the afternoon of May 20, 1950. There is a long and very detailed account of it in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 6, 86 (Jan./Feb. 1967) and also an ample discussion of it in chapter IV of Dr. Jacques Vallée's *Passport to Magonia*.

The name of the victim, a French woman, has been withheld from publication, but the case is very well established, and an official investigation by the local French police substantiated the physical traces mentioned in the report.

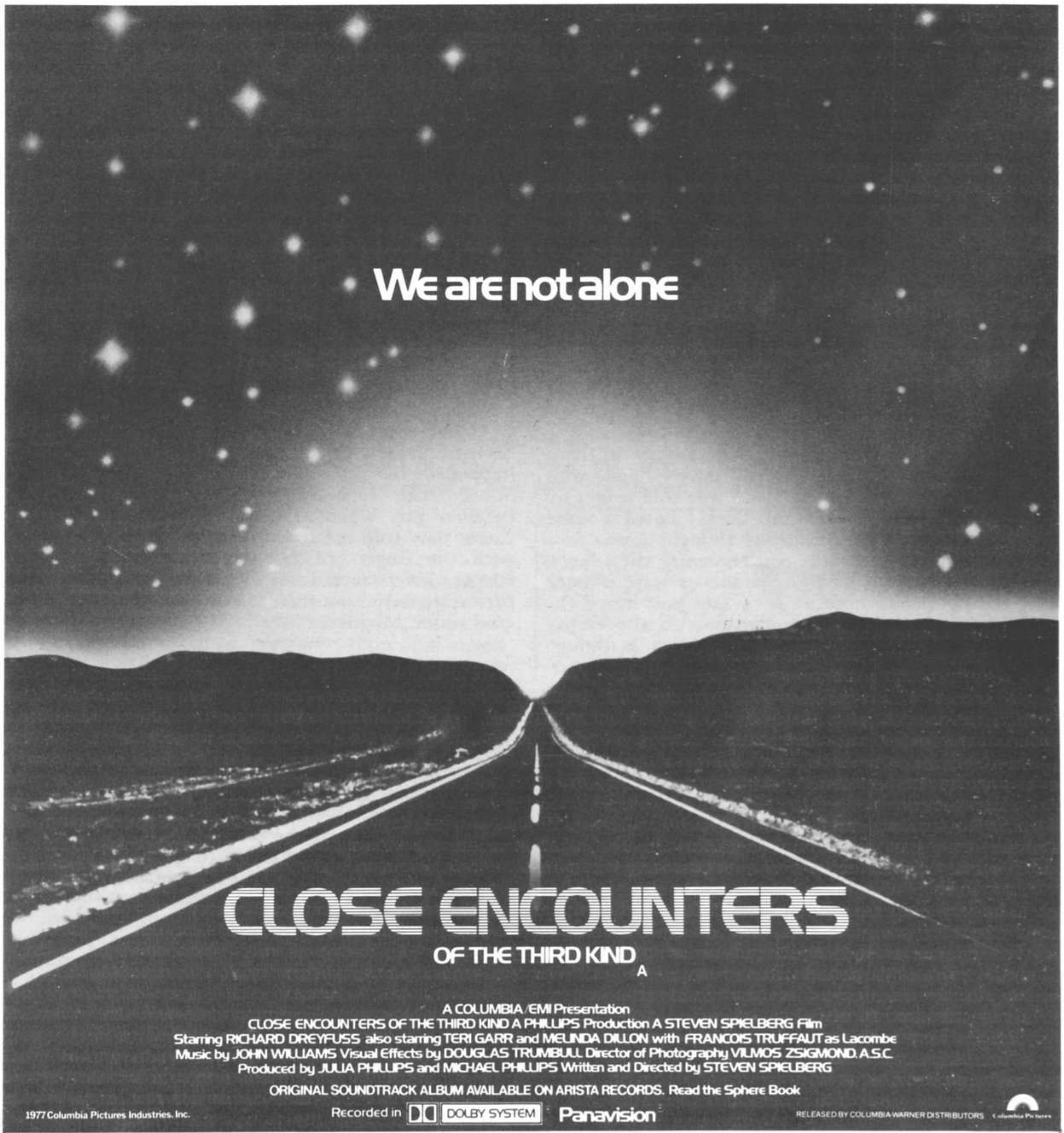
In view of the unusual nature of the affair, I give below the more important part of the woman's story:

"I was hurrying back home to prepare dinner. I was happy and content and I was singing some popular tune. Everything was calm and still, without any breeze or wind; I was alone on the path running along the bank of the Loire.

"Suddenly I found myself within a brilliant, blinding light, and I saw two huge black hands appear in front of me. Each one had five fingers, of a black colour with a yellowish tint, somewhat like copper. The fingers were roughly formed, slightly vibrating, or quivering. These hands did not come from behind me, but from above, as if they had been hanging over my head awaiting the proper time to catch me. The black hands did not immediately apply themselves to my head. I probably took two or three steps before they touched me. The hands had no visible arms! The two black hands were applied to my face with violence and squeezed my head, as a bird of prey rushes on its unfortunate, helpless victim. They pulled my head back against a very hard chest — one that seemed to be made of iron; I felt the cold through my hair and behind my neck, but no contact with clothes. The hands were squeezing my head like a formidable vice, not abruptly, but gradually. They were very cold, and their touch made me think that they were not made of flesh. The big fingers were placed on my eyes, and I could not see any more, on my nose so that I could not breathe, and also on my mouth, to prevent me from crying out.

"When I was surrounded by the strong, blinding light, I had the feeling I had been paralyzed, and when the hands touched me, I had the very distinct impression of a strong electric discharge, as if I had been shaken by a lightning bolt. My whole body was annihilated, helpless, without reflexes. I was like a broken toy between the inhuman hands of my unknown aggressor. For a little over a minute, I felt his hands tightening very strongly on either side of my throat. It was horribly painful. Then he began to swing me forward and backward several times, still fiercely squeezing my head against his chest. I had the distinct impression that this being wore armour or a steel carapace, or some very hard and cold material. I felt his two (invisible) arms pressing heavily on my shoulders.

"It was at that moment that I heard his laugh, a strange laugh I could not explain; it was as if I heard him through water, and yet it seemed quite close, above my head. At first it sounded rough and hushed, then rather strong and rolling. It made me shudder and feel unwell. After a few seconds the laugh stopped, as though cut short. Then a knee struck me sharply in the small of the back, hurting me very much, as if the knee were made of steel. This made me think my aggressor was completely covered with steel. The blow made me fall backwards, and the

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unknown aggressor made me lie down, still squeezing my head against his chest. Then he dragged me along the path, by my head, and he seemed to be in a great hurry. I did not hear him breathing.

"He pulled me into a thicket full of brambles and nettles and acacias, still moving backwards and at an incredible speed, holding my head. At that moment I heard his voice above me, and it said: *'There she is. We've got her!'* As if he were talking to someone else, some accomplice who had stayed inside the thicket; this voice, like the laugh, seemed close by, although muffled by some obstacle, and it was short, rough, sharply cut.

"I was choking, and I felt I was going to die; I thought of my family waiting for me at home, and my whole life passed before me in a few seconds. My aggressor pulled me through the bushes until we reached a small pasture, and suddenly he stopped! Why? His hands had gradually slipped down my face, and I tried to call for help, but I had no voice left but a tiny, shrill cry. After a while I was able to sit up among the brambles. I had a very difficult time breathing. My bag was still in my hand, with the money it contained. At last I was able to get up in spite of my weakness, and then I heard a noise to my left inside the bushes. I thought I was now going to see my aggressors and recognize their faces, but I saw nothing! Only the branches were moving and waving about in the air; I saw and heard the brambles catching on to something in the empty void, and the grass being tramped down as though beneath the feet of some invisible being. I was terrified. Softly, I got back on to the little path again along the river bank, walking with very great difficulty. My legs, lacerated by the brambles, were covered with blood. I felt a strange, indefinable sensation of nervous exhaustion, as if I had had a powerful electric current put through me. In my mouth I had a bitter, nauseating metallic taste; my muscles no longer obeyed me; I felt something on my shoulders like a bar, and a painful sensation of heat in my back, as though I had been burnt by flames or by a burning ray. Momentarily, I still continued to feel as though something invisible were touching me. I must have walked thus for five or six minutes. At the end of the path there was a bend, and from there I could see some houses, and it was more or less at this point that the various pains by which I was overwhelmed began to lessen somewhat.

"The whole thing had lasted a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, and it seemed to me that I had been living through something unreal. Suddenly I heard a loud noise, like a violent blast of wind in a storm, like a violent displacement of hot air, like a tremendous whirlwind. I saw the trees bending over as though beneath a sudden blast of wind of a storm, and I was almost knocked to the ground. At the same moment there was also a powerful, blinding white light; I had the sensation that something was passing by in the air at a very great speed, but I saw nothing; and very quickly all became very calm again. Then I felt unwell in various ways, and I felt I wanted to vomit. I reached the house of the lock-keeper at G—, and when I opened their garden gate, he and his wife came out to meet me, asking me what had happened; for they too had seen a light from their house. The lock-keeper's wife asked what had befallen me. When at last I was able to speak to them, they told me that my face was deeply marked with the fingers of two hands, making great red stripes. They treated the scratches on my legs with peroxide and an ointment, and bathed my face with cold water. My hands were badly injured."

* * * * *

As I have mentioned above, this case has in fact never been reported in FSR, although I did a full translation of it as long ago as April 1967. The rest of the account, including the investigations of the Gendarmerie, is fairly long, so perhaps it can be printed as a follow-up to this article sometime in the near future. As will be seen, the case does display some interesting resemblances to the new report from Brazil. Personally, I would say that both are typical examples of attack by demonic forces.

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## COMMENT: INTERNATIONAL COSMIC DEPARTMENT

The following is taken from the "Peter Simple" column of the *Daily Telegraph* of December 1, 1977, and appears under the heading *UFO and UNO*:—

"Mr. Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, a member-state of the United Nations Organization, has persuaded it to set up an agency to consider the 'UFO phenomenon.'

"He believes the world is now ready to accept evidence of Unidentified Flying Objects as advanced space vehicles used by aliens of extraterrestrial origin. The proposed agency would make contact with them and thus *'open a cornucopia of scientific wonders for us all.'*

"One might think, might one not, that we already had quite enough cornucopias of that sort to be going on with. But that is by the way.

"Have Mr. Gairy and other believers in advanced extraterrestrial aliens never wondered whether UNO is being run by them already? Or whether these UFOs may not be thought-forms, emanations from the collective unconscious of the General Assembly itself, expressing by their senseless, confusing appearances and disappearances its own evil capacity for deluding and mystifying the peoples of the earth?"

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TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

# MAPLE RIDGE "DIAMONDS"

*Graham Conway*

**We are grateful to Miss O. Beaton of Vancouver B.C. for sending this interesting item to Flying Saucer Review**

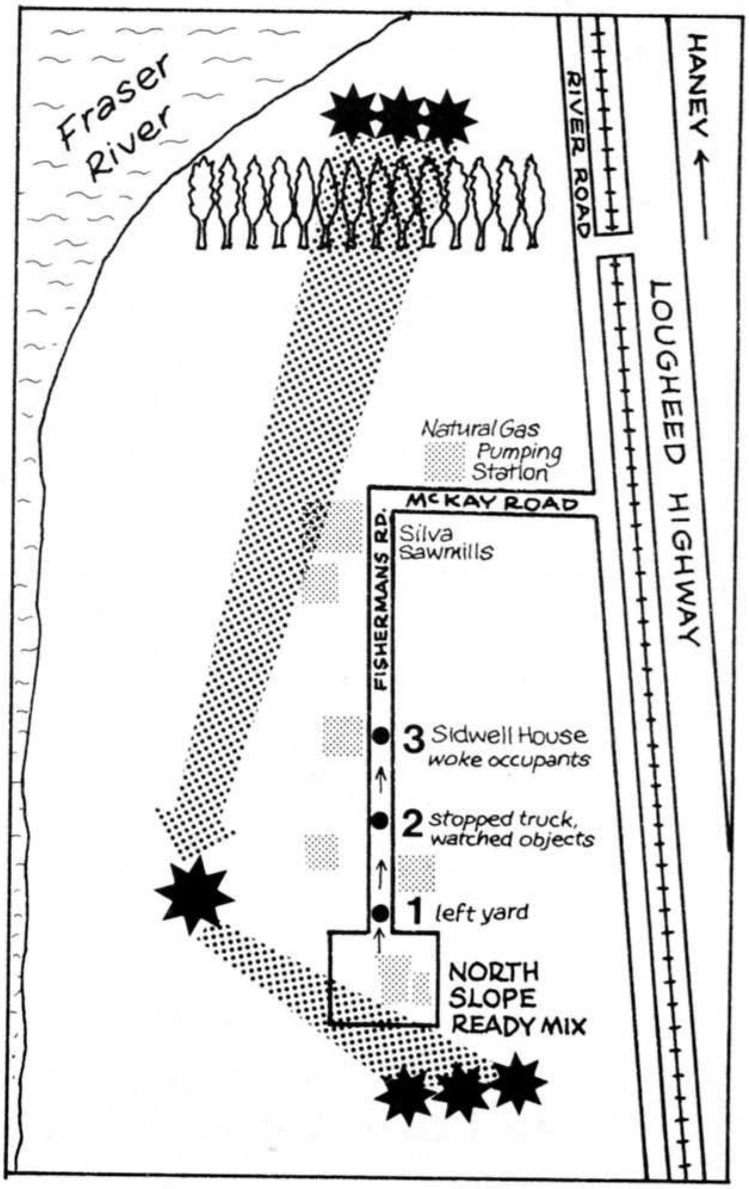
TOM MICHAUD, a 37-year-old truck driver, pulled into the yard of North Slope Ready Mix Co. two miles east of Haney; the time was 2.50 a.m. and the date was August 23, 1977. He proceeded to unload his 84,000 lb streamlined cement truck's contents into a tall silo located in an unlit company yard. The yard is situated at the end of a lonely road. The whole operation took just over an hour, and nothing unusual took place during this period. The night was dark and fairly miserable. Cloud ceiling was 2,500 feet, visibility 6 miles, there was a light mist, and scattered rain helped make viewing conditions far from perfect.

### The incident

The job took longer than usual due to a broken air line. However, at 4.05 a.m. Tom went back in the cab and ready to return to his base in Burnaby. As he left the yard, heading in a westerly direction down Fisherman's Road, he spotted three bright lights through his steamed up, rain-spotted windshield. Although travelling already at 20 m.p.h. he stamped on the brakes and came to a halt. He could now observe the lights more clearly. Thinking they were probably reflections, he wiped the glass, and to his astonishment saw that the intensely bright objects seemed to be zigzagging in the air over a stand of poplar trees about a mile away.

From then on time and detail become blurred, as Tom readily admits. His attention was centred on the middle object which began at regular intervals to eject a red laser-like beam towards the ground. Apparently this took place in a methodical sequence, whereby the brilliant light decreased in size as energy left it, and flowed down into a vertical beam. The moment the red beam reached its objective, whatever that may have been, the original light source immediately resumed its original brilliance. This light projection sequence occurred at least three times, but no more than five. The witness also added that despite the magnificence of the brilliant lights, they did not appear either to throw a light glow on to the surrounding area, nor to reflect off the low cloud cover. His estimate of distance was that they were no more than two miles away, with a possible altitude of 100–1500 feet. At no time could he detect either a shape or indication of mass behind the powerful lights, which appeared to him, at that time, to be the size of peas.

Suddenly, without warning and any apparent visible flight path, the light changed its position and was now over Tom's left shoulder, possibly 500 feet up and less than ¼ mile away, giving him the feeling of being watched. He turned round, and quickly rolled the window down and stuck out his head, but could hear no noise from it. He recalls a mixture of awe and being mesmerized by this diamond-like object that held his attention. Where the other two lights went he has no idea. If they were close by, then he has no recollection of seeing them. When asked what the basic colour was, he is unable to find words that are suitable. He constantly returns to recalling the brilliance that radiates from a fine gem, now the size of a quarter. During this period of time he had no feeling of fear. Suddenly it occurred




**UFO movements, August 23, 1977**

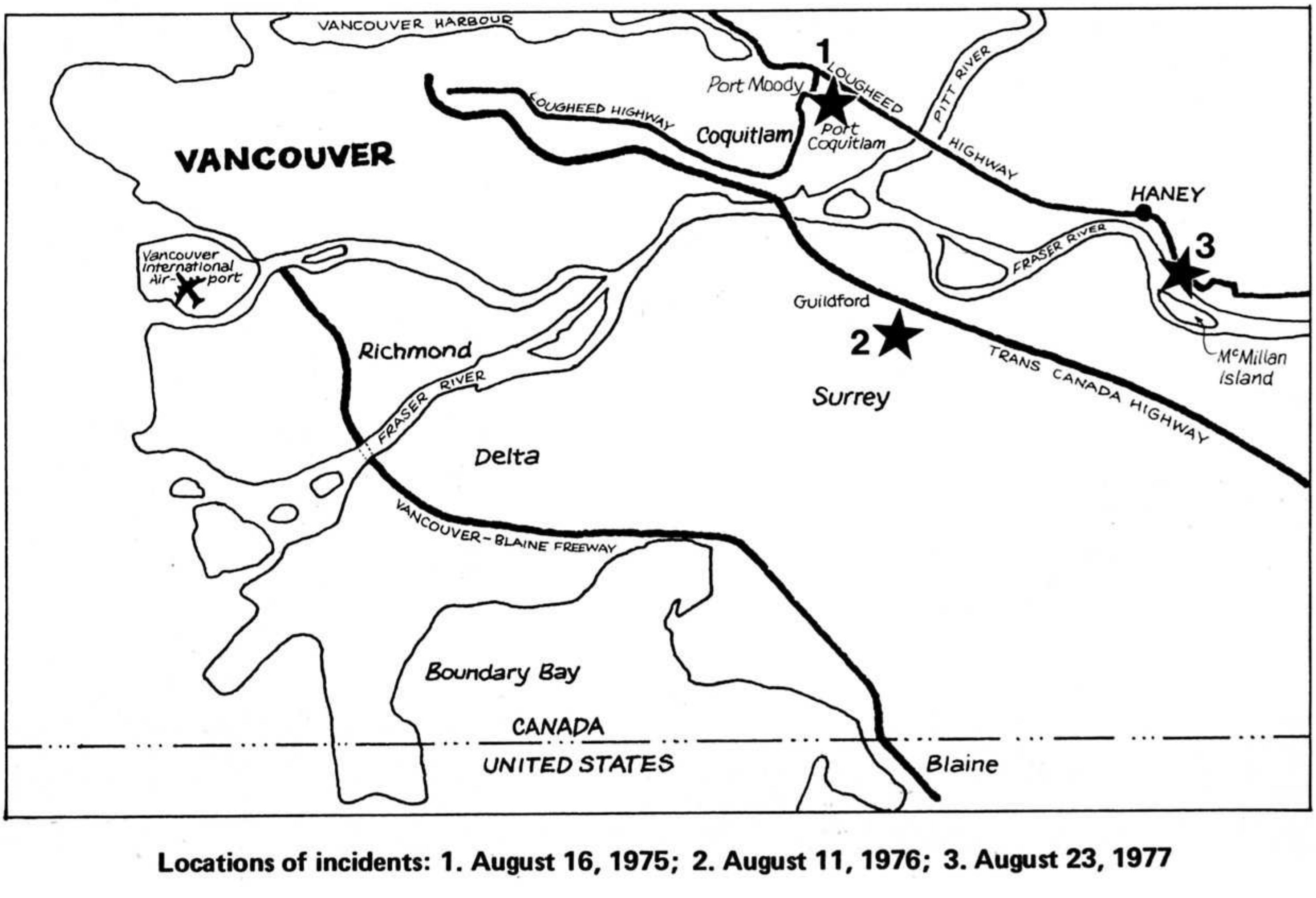
to him that the object might land and he had no desire to meet "them." The same instant that that thought crossed his mind, the object left, retreating half a mile to the south east. As if released from a spell, Tom put the truck in gear and drove a short distance to a small house alongside the road. It was now 4.13 a.m.

The witness commenced to bang on the front door of the house until he aroused the occupants. The owner, Mr. Sidwell stuck his head out of the basement window shouting "what the hell's going on?" Mrs. Sidwell described the driver's extremely excited condition and his repeated statements that he had seen a "flying saucer" close to the house. Melody, the Sidwell's 14-year-old daughter, stepped on to the porch and looked through the trees in the direction in which Tom was pointing. Admitting to having seen three lights "bobbing up and down" in the sky she also added that in her opinion they certainly didn't look like flying saucers. When pressed to describe the colour she too hesitated a long time, then said, reluctantly, they were yellow. Ten minutes elapsed while the driver described what had taken place, less than 160 yards down the road from where the Sidwells lived. Mr. Sidwell also confirmed the presence of the lights in the sky.

Re-entering the cab of his huge truck Tom drove to nearby Haney to call the police; it never occurred to him to ask to use the phone at the Sidwell's home. The person who answered the phone was facetious, stating that if the witness would supply a few more details, the police would go out and find the U.F.O. Tom hung up in frustration and disgust. The return journey to his base in Burnaby took 40 minutes, he has no recall at all of travelling this route back to his depot. On arriving, quite naturally much later than anticipated, he poured out his story to the night mechanic, Cliff Nyland, and his relief driver Brian Ayre. They described him as being white faced and "bug eyed". Apparently Tom asked Brian Ayre three times where he was going and three times Brian replied; it seemed that something of a state of shock existed.

When Tom Michaud returned home and told his wife of the night's events, he was still in a state of excitement. During breakfast, his alert young daughter noticed that her father was going back and forth from the kitchen sink to the bathroom, drinking glass after glass of water. It was then that Tom noticed that he had a curious metallic taste in his mouth similar, he said, to the after-effects of having a dentist fill one's teeth and leaving residual particules with accompanying taste. This state of apparent dehydration lasted until around about noon. At no time were the eyes of the witness irritated or inflamed. The only other unusual event was that when he went to bed he could not sleep, which was not his normal style, for he usually goes right off and never hears a sound. After considerable thought, Tom's one word summary of the night's incident was that of being "privileged."

The following night, when Tom left Burnaby to




**Locations of incidents: 1. August 16, 1975; 2. August 11, 1976; 3. August 23, 1977**

drive home after completing his night's work he had a sudden overpowering compuslion to return to the scene of the sighting. He possessed a feeling of *wanting* to meet "them." When he arrived in the yard, and turned his car around in the same direction that his truck had been facing, he suddenly asked himself "what on earth am I doing here?" Re-starting the car's engine and switching the lights back on, he left for home in a hurry.

The next night he says he experienced the same compulsion to revisit the area. This time, however, Tom Michaud found excuses for not going, and says he resisted a return visit.

**Investigation**

The principal witness, Mr. Tom Michaud, has a young family and is a resident of the Fraser Valley (address on file). He is a former Canadian Navy man, and also a student pilot and keenly interested in all aspects of aviation.

He is employed by Trimac Transportation Company in Burnaby, B.C., having worked as a truck driver for a period of nine years for this particular company.

The events described took place close to Haney and Albion, between the Fraser River and Loughhead Highway, at a point approximately 30 miles east of Vancouver.

Investigation revealed that Pitt Meadows airport, which is located about five miles west of the sighting area, closes down at 8.00 p.m. each night. This airfield handles small private planes and received no reports of the incident near Haney.

Abbotsford airport, twenty odd miles to the east, and equipped to land the largest commercial aircraft should Vancouver International be fogged in, also reported no sightings, and to my surprise stated they do not possess radar.

The R.C.M.P. (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) office at Haney, Mission and Langley, admitted to having received a UFO call from a "trucker," but state that none of the officers on duty that night saw anything while on highway patrol.

The crew of the Langley car ferry that operates across the Fraser River twenty four hours a day, and which is located only half a mile east of the sighting area, also saw nothing unusual at 4.00 a.m. The captain and two crew members volunteered that it was a miserable night with visibility very poor due to the rain.

Ironically enough, the headquarters of the Maple Ridge Amateur Astronomers' Society is situated only a ¼ mile east of where Mr. Michaud witnessed the three lights. Although it is possible the last position in which they were seen was close to this building, no further information was forthcoming from this group of skywatchers.

In this particular case it would appear that the inevitable high tension wire grid system is missing. The light probe appears to have been directed at a densely covered bush area, triangular in shape, a mile long, bordered on one side by a heavily used railway line and on the other side by the Fraser River. It would appear that nobody inhabits the piece of ground. As far as can be ascertained domestic animals don't use it for grazing either. If, as is quite possible, the witness misjudged the viewing distance that night, then it is reasonable to assume that the red light probe was directed on to the surface of the river itself.

A silent but unquestionable witness to the night's events turned up unexpectedly. Mr. Michaud casually reported during our conversation that all times could easily be verified, accurately too, thanks to a built in time clock sealed within the truck. Required for insurance purposes, this seismograph-type circular card records all stops, the period of time that has elapsed before proceeding, engine revolutions per minute. Tom secured this paper disc and made it available to me. It certainly verifies the times that he describes.

As the investigation proceeded a curious pattern emerged. This sighting took place in Maple Ridge on August 23, 1977.

A resident of Maple Ridge, Mr. Gordon White, an R.C.A.F. veteran reported an illuminated object ten miles to the south of his home on August 11,1976. He watched it execute a variety of manoeuvres, through binoculars, for a period of 45 minutes. He estimates it was over the Surrey area.

Three small boys reported a circular metallic object with flashing lights landed in a sandpit closeby. This occurred in Port Coquitlam, ten miles to the west of where Mr. Michaud watched his exquisitely "beautiful" brilliant lights. In the case of the landing report, the date was August 16, 1975.

So we have had three reports within three years, and with a twelve day spread.

Finally I wish to add that my associate Brian Foster, a member of the Vancouver Flying Saucer Club, researched his files and located a matching case. The *Flying Saucer Review* for July-August, 1972, contained an article about an object that appeared over Tenby, West Wales, on October 8, 1966. The writer, Mr. F.W. Holiday, refers to two cloud-like objects which appeared over a group of fishermen. A dark object emerged from one and proceeded to emit a "ruby red light" that it beamed on those below.

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# THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME...2

## FOLLOW-UP ON THE MAINE UFO ENCOUNTER

*Berthold Eric Schwarz M.D.**

DOCTOR HERBERT HOPKINS is the medical man who was consulted by Mrs. Shirley Fickett and Brent Raynes when they were investigating the Maine teleportation/contact case involving witness David Stephens and a friend (see *Flying Saucer Review* Vol.22, No.2). It was he who hypnotically regressed Mr. Stephens and recorded the sessions.

In the first part of this present article an account was given of the bizarre man-in-black visitations that were experienced, first by Dr. Hopkins himself, and secondly by his son and daughter-in-law.

As a result of these weird encounters Dr. Hopkins, very disturbed, destroyed the tapes of the Stephens interviews. We now take a look at the doctor, and his experiences outside of this present case.

### III. Possibly relevant background to the MIB visit

#### 1. Brief Curriculum Vitae

The reader might understandably wonder about the credibility of a person who has been involved in an incredible encounter. Dr. Hopkins is a physician involved in the general practice of medicine, specializing in allergy. He is listed in *Who's Who in the East*, 10th Edition, 1966–1967. Besides belonging to several medical organizations, he is a graduate electronics engineer of the RCA Technical Institute, studied for – but did not apply for – ordination as a minister of the Christian Advent Church, as well as, more recently, an ordained Spiritualist minister. He has been involved in private research on electro-acoustic and electronic systems and is vice president of the General Sound Corporation, and President of Hopkins Sound Technology, Inc. He has many patents and has written his own applications for patents. His stereo speakers, which are listed in an authoritative text on the subject, are used by leading recording companies.

He was an honours student at the Christian Advent College of Aurora, Illinois. While there, he did research in physics. He later transferred to the University of Illinois Medical School on a scholarship (Ivy League Award). His more recent research activities have included a theory of anti-gravity and free energy. He has taken many courses through the years, including specialized techniques in hypnosis. Aside from a transient asthmatic condition, he has enjoyed good health throughout his life. He is of old English and German stock and is married, his wife acting also as his office nurse. They have two sons; one an accomplished and successful musician; and the other, a skilled auto mechanic. There has never been any question of sociopathic difficulties, use of habit-forming, adictive, or hallucinogenic drugs, delirium, etc..

These facts and opinions are supported by examination of relevant documents and interviews of the doctor, of various members of his family, of Mrs. Fickett, and Mr. Raynes. Through coincidence of synchronicity, this data is further supported by the fact that Dr. Hopkins is a medical school classmate of my brother-in-law, George P. Balz, M.D., Clinical Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Cincinnati, who recalls HH fondly, as a brilliant, well-thought-of student. Coincidentally also, Dr. Hopkins is physician to the eminent Maine dowser, Henry Gross, who was written up by Kenneth Roberts[12/14] as well as studied by me.[15/16] Mr. Gross and his late wife Olive, as well as their daughter Clara, spoke highly of Dr. Hopkins. His intelligence, emotional stability, and inventiveness appear superior in all respects.

Possibly these manifold unique attributes give clues why Dr. Hopkins and not the others who were involved in the Stephens case were chosen for this MIB visit. He has proven expertise in physics, electronics, medicine, philosophy, religion, and apparently highly developed psi capacities. Possibly he could bring a better understanding to the Stephens experience, which might be undesirable to the UFO force, whatever that is. For, had he not destroyed his evidence, he might have given further thought to the Stephens experience, pursued the case, and tapped meanings that have eluded others. Could he, a highly developed sensitive, which made him open for this event (materialization?), have also posed a threat to the UFO forces and been the reason for their inducing his abrupt withdrawal? Certainly his MIB encounter succeeded in ending all publicity, but it also, fortunately, made it possible for me to prepare this report for the serious readers of FSR. Whatever the final interpretation of his experience, we are deeply in Dr. Hopkins' debt.

#### 2. Developing awareness for Psi

Although my visit was too short to document various anecdotal paranormal events reported to me by Dr. Hopkins, it should be noted that in other psychiatric-psi surveys of people who claim close UFO, or UFO-related, encounters, the psychic aspects were often striking. In organizing and sketching some of these possible psi experiences, the writer is confronted with the problem of how to compress these accounts into readable form, while not omitting significant details, for psi is a continuum, and a cutoff point between people and events is hard to

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establish. However, possibly some of Dr. Hopkin's life experiences will throw some light on his MIB encounter.

Dr. Hopkins had no particular knowledge or interest in psychic phenomena until recent years. Having an inquisitive, philosophical-scientific type of mind, he enrolled in a Silva Mind Control course because it "was supposed to increase one's ability to concentrate, increase one's attention span, and make one more aware, etc." He was so impressed by it that his wife then took the course, and he repeated it five times. Once, after the course, a lady they met in class asked them if they had ever been to a Spiritualistic church. They said no, that they knew nothing about it. However, shortly afterwards, he and his wife attended out of curiosity. Although he was reared an Episcopalian, had attended a Christian Advent College in Illinois, and had converted to Catholicism when he married his wife, he felt that these teachings left him dissatisfied. He had many friends and patients among the clergy of these different denominations and others, but he never received satisfactory answers to his queries: "Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?"

At his first session at the Spiritualistic Church, although his wife and he "tried to blend in with the woodwork, because we didn't know what kind of kooky thing this was, " they were surprised to hear the spirit messages and then were shocked when the minister recited a host of details about Mrs. Hopkin's background. The process was then repeated with Dr. Hopkins. The minister told the physician that he was a gifted sensitive himself. He then went on to predict a series of events including the Hopkinses attending many more meetings and finally Dr. Hopkins becoming an ordained Spiritualistic minister himself. Needless to say, Dr. Hopkins was astounded and protested that he had no intention of doing any of that. However, after various "happenstances" and unusual events intervened over a period of time, he became an ordained Spiritualistic minister. He even established his own church, which meets in his home and is attended by a handful of intellectuals.

Dr. Hopkins might have wondered if much of his previous life was in some way a preparation for these later developments, for he recalled with clarity two particularly outstanding possible psi events.

### 3. Veridical nightmare

The day before Thanksgiving, 1949, while in medical school in Chicago, the doctor and his wife went to Aurora, Illinois. That evening he had a nightmare: "I saw a black *Dodge* car. It was not a brand-new one. It was on fire and there were five people in it, screaming and trying to get out – unsuccessfully. I was horrified. I then found myself in back of the car looking at the license plate, and the numbers seemed to burn themselves indelibly into my hand. I awakened with a start, and Madeline asked me what was wrong. I told her of my dream. She said it was just a nightmare, and I should forget it. I tried to go back to sleep; then finally I got up and wrote down the license number and put it in my pocket. The next morning when we went downtown for breakfast, we drove past a garage and there was a large towtruck with a chain and hook. Hooked onto the chain was a black *Dodge* car burnt to a crisp. I backed up so I could see the license plate. I compared it with the number written down on the paper in my pocket: it was identical! That spoiled our appetite for breakfast. My wife was shocked. That night there was a special edition of the paper, and we read that a Dodge car with five people in it had burned and all the occupants had died in the car. They gave the names of the people, but I did not know any of them. They meant nothing to me – they were total strangers. I thought that over for a couple of days and went back to school on Monday.

The nightmare was preceded by an episode in anatomy class where one of the students accidentally cut a ureter, which he should not have done, and he commented to the effect that it wouldn't make any difference to him (the deceased) now. However, another student said he wasn't so sure, and that led to a discussion. Dr. Hopkins said: "I was the most dogmatic of the group, for any psychic phenomena or seeing yourself after death and things like that were absolutely hogwash. I could not accept that under any circumstances because it could not be scientifically proven. It was quite a heated discussion. That is why I did not say anything about my dream to the other fellows. I didn't want to be embarrassed by telling them what had happened and having people say, 'See, I told you so!'

### 4. Possible precognition

"Nothing happened for many years, and then in 1957 we bought this house and were living here. My wife's brother-in-law was recovering from a subtotal gastrectomy and was with us, also my wife's mother, my younger brother, and my wife's niece. There was no way I could get out of the house without being seen. They were all up that night, but I was dead tired from a rigorous schedule of surgery and house calls plus office work; so it must have been a little bit before eleven that I went to bed and had a dream. Because it was a dream filled with firm, unshifting, unquestionable detail, colours, sights, sounds, smell, everything complete, everything was just that real, I knew it wasn't a dream. There was a peculiar, all-pervading consciousness about it.

"I saw this car: a two-tone green 1956 *Buick* special. It ran into something that I did not see. There were three people in the car, two girls and a boy. Then I found myself looking at the license number of the car, and I noted it and remembered it. I also noted that the incident occurred in front of 70 East Grand Avenue. I awakened with a start. Madeline asked me what was wrong. 'I didn't hear any crash: what are you talking about? You must have been dreaming.' I said, 'No. This was real. A car hit something. I heard it. It happened right in front of 70 East Grand Avenue.' She said, quite correctly, 'Well, if it happened there, how could you possibly have heard it? All the way up here!' Again I tried to go back to sleep but I couldn't.

"Finally I wrote down the number that I had seen on the car and I fumed, fussed, squirmed, and

twisted, but I couldn't get to sleep. Finally, after 20 minutes my wife said, 'Well, if you are that concerned about it, I'll call Paul.' Paul Belrose was the man at the desk in police headquarters at night. He was a patient and a close friend of ours. If he had been a stranger, she would not have called. She asked Paul if there had been an accident on East Grand Avenue. And he said, 'Excuse me, please, there is a call coming in. Hold the phone while I take it, and I'll be right back to you.'

"A minute or so later he came back on the phone and said, 'Yes, Madeline, what was that you were telling me about? An accident?' And she said, 'Doc had a dream that there was an accident in front of 70 East Grand Avenue involving a two-tone green *Buick*. It hit something he couldn't quite see, but the car backed up and drove off.' Madeline continued, 'Doc's quite shaken up about it and can't put it out of his mind.' Paul said, 'Guess what? I'm shaking too. That was the call that just came in! (More than 20 minutes after HH's dream.) But I don't have all the details. A woman called from 70 East Grand Avenue and said she saw a green car hit a pole and she saw some young folks in it but she didn't know what kind of car it was and she didn't see the license plate.'

"So we provided the license number and the description of the car, and that there were two girls and a boy. We said that the car had driven off toward Pine Point and in the general direction of Portland and South Portland and that it would be picked up by the South Portland police and that the kids would be arrested. Madeline told him that and Paul said, 'I'm going to notify the South Portland police, and if I hear anything I'll call you back.'

"I felt relieved and went to sleep. About an hour later the phone rang and it was Paul Belrose from the police desk. He said, 'I have something to tell you that's going to shake you up. The South Portland police have called me and they stopped a 1956, two-tone green *Buick*, with that license number with a damaged front bumper and grill. There were two girls and a boy in it. The car had been taken without the owner's knowledge. They were under arrest. exact detail, detail for detail.'

"You know I witnessed the whole thing, well before it happened. Now, I have no knowledge of the time that the accident happened when the car burned in Aurora, Illinois. I don't know whether I dreamed that at the time it happened, before, or afterwards. I don't have that information because the time was not given in the newspaper write-up, and I really didn't notice the time that I awoke, so the information on that is uncertain." (It could have been telepathic.)[17]

**5. Possible paranormal experiences with mother after her death**

Dr. Hopkins could recall no psychic experiences for his mother or father. However, a series of events happened after his mother's death at age 82, three years ago. He was quite close to his mother, who was living with him and his wife. His father had died some years before. Both Mrs. Hopkins and the doctor recalled how, after his mother's death, the lights would frequently go on in various parts of the house, and each would think that the other had turned them on, which was not the case.

On one occasion, out of habit as when his mother was alive, the doctor checked her room. Madeline had placed two pillows side by side when she had made up the bed. The doctor, as was his mother's custom, placed the pillows on top of each other and on the way out, smoothed out the cushion on his mother's rocking chair. The next morning Mrs. Hopkins asked him if he had disturbed the bed and he told her what he had done, explaining he didn't know why he did it other than that it just made him feel better. The wife then wanted him to look in his mother's bedroom because the bed was in disarray as if someone had slept in it, and there was a deep imprint on the top pillow with a profile of a head. Also, the cushion on the rocker appeared to have been sat on. They gave no more thought to this experience, but the following night when he glanced into the room he thought he could see his mother sitting in the chair. It faded away and he went to bed.

Then one evening, a week later, Mrs. Hopkins was watching the news on the television downstairs. At seven o'clock she shut off her TV and went upstairs to get her uniform for the evening office hours. She got part way up the stairs and heard the TV, but she was sure she had shut it off. So she went downstairs again and found that indeed the TV was shut off. Going upstairs again and looking through the bannister railings on her way up, she could look into her mother-in-law's room. Because of the way the TV in that room was tilted, she could clearly see the screen and it was on. She went downstairs again to ask if her husband had turned it on. The doctor said he had not been up there and did not turn it on himself, so they went up together and found that the TV was on and that it had been turned from Channel 13 to Channel 8, in time for his mother's favourite programme at seven o'clock, *What's My Line?*

The doctor was curious about how long the TV might have been on (thinking they might have left it on accidentally) and felt the set. It was stone cold. If it had been on even for five minutes, it would have built up some warmth in the enclosure of the cabinet. He turned off the set by pushing in the pull-out, push-in switch of the kind that precluded the possibility of the dog or cat brushing against the knob and accidentally turning the set on.

One Friday night, when the doctor had assembled a group of intellectuals interested in "picking up communications," his deceased mother's presence was not only "sensed" but the double latched doors to the meeting room suddenly opened wide, cool air came through, and when one of the group rose to close the doors, the doors closed and clicked shut spontaneously.

**6. Potpourri, including possible paranormal tape from Dr. Hopkins's late father**

Although Dr. Hopkins was familiar with alleged psychic photograph, he had never tried that himself. And when Henry Gross once said that he thought the

doctor could be a good dowser, he tried it with Henry and was successful. He never repeated the event. Another time as the mood hit him, he sat down and put his tape recorder on and said: "Please, Spirit, help us. Please guide me. Dear Spirit, soon help me. Dear helpful Spirits, dear guiding Spirit, spirits of the so-called dead, please help me. Please guide me. Please speak up that I may hear you clearly on this tape."

When he played the tape back, he was shocked to hear, as was confirmed by his wife, the voice of his late father, which came between and over his phrases. The voice said: "Please help me – please guide me. Help."[18] He never repeated this event because, "I hadn't the time nor the inclination."[19]

## Notes and References

12. Roberts, K.: *Henry Gross and His Devining Rod,* Doubleday & Co., New York, 1951.
13. Roberts, K.: *The Seventh Sense,* Doubleday & Co., New York, 1953.
14. Roberts, K.: *Water Unlimited,* Doubleday & Co., New York, 1957.
15. Schwarz, B.E.: Physiological Aspects of Henry Gross's Dowsing, *Parapsychology,* Vol. IV (No.2): 71–86, 1962–63.
16. Schwarz, B.E.: *Psychic Dynamics,* Pageant Press, Inc., New York, 1965.
17. Precognition, possibly the rarest of psi abilities, might be better understood if viewed as part of the psychic nexus. It is part of a continuum, as is well illustrated in the Hopkins case, with it's long-standing and variegated manifestations of psi and synchronicity, possibly evolving into the explosive psi-laden UFO experience and MIB encounter. Further examples of the psychic nexus can be found in my "Precognition and Psychic Nexus," *Journal of the American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine,* Part I, Vol.18 (No.2): 52-59, 1971; Part II, Vol.18 (No.3): 83-93, 1971; and in "Psi and the Life Cycle," *ibid.*: Vol.21 (Nos. 2,3,4), and Vol. 22 (Nos. 1,2,3,4), 1974.
18. Discussion of some of UFO contactee Mrs. Stella Lansing's presumed paranormal tapes can be found in Commentary on the August Roberts Mystery, *Flying Saucer Review,* Vol.21 (No.6): 18-19, April, 1976.

    Interestingly enough, in comparision with Dr. Hopkins' plaintive voice on the paranormal tape Mrs. Lansing had a similar experience on November 8, 1975. I had been visiting her at the time, and although we attempted various filming and recording projects, we did not immediately play back the tapes and did not know what was going on. However, the next morning she informed me that shortly after I left her home "I (S.L.) put the reel recorder in the rewind position and it stopped. The motor was 'on' but it wouldn't play. It took from 2.30 until 3.10 a.m. until it played. And then it didn't end until 4.00. I filmed to show that the switch was on and the extension cord plugged in. There were funny noises. Something like typewriters, or electrical switches. A voice from the speaker kept saying: 'Please believe me, please believe me.' I recorded this on the cassette machine which was next to the reel recorder."

    It was hard to define the circumstances, but Mrs. Lansing filmed the machines, and it appeared that the jamming and the placement of the switches were as she described. She had the reel-to-reel on in the "play" position hoping to make a recording because of a recent case experience of mine which I had told her about and where some spectacular recordings were allegedly made in that paradoxical position. We tried this particular experiment also because the night before, when she was alone, she again taped a direct voice saying, "You believe," many times over. Later, when she edited the tape we made together, she heard interpolated between her speech and my talk various phrases that had no apparent relationship to our talk and which occurred apparently randomly: "My name is Melinda ... I'm from the Spirit world ... run out of film now ... run out ... energy gone ... I can't stand it any more." Although I heard the "Please believe me," and at one point, "Please believe me, Mrs. Lansing," in a deep, halting, doleful voice, I did not have an opportunity to check out the other statements. However it is of interest that at the early morning time when I left, perhaps with disappointment for not achieving results and also wearied by Mrs. Lansing's chain-smoking and night-owl vitality, that the voice said, "I can't stand it any more," might have clearly reflected my unexpressed feelings.
19. Perhaps unconscious resistance to psi is the key to developing an awareness for this ability. In many UFO reports the conscious – not alone unconscious – resistance to psi accounts for the omission of much relevant possible paranormal data. The subject of resistance to psi is brilliantly explored by Jule Eisenbud, M.D., in his *Psi and Psychoanalysis* (Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1970), and J.A.M. Meerloo, M.D., in *Hidden Communication and Unobtrusive and Unconscious Communications* (Garrett Publications, Helix, New York, 1964).

## NEW PLANET, OR SPACE-STATION?

Asking whether or not it could be a space-station, **Mr. John Lade** draws our attention to this news item in *The Christian Science Monitor* of November 21, 1977, which appeared under the signature of David F. Salisbury:–

"What may be the tenth planet in the solar system has been discovered by an astronomer here.

"Charles Kowal of the California Institute of Technology has announced the sighting of a peculiar object – apparently 100 to 400 miles in diameter – that orbits the sun between Uranus and Saturn.

"The newly discovered mini-planet is bound to cause problems for astronomers because it falls outside commonly accepted definitions for objects in the solar system. Mr. Kowal is resisting premature attempts to title his discovery a planet. From its brightness, the astronomer estimates that the object is the size of a large asteroid. If it is not a comet, meterorite, or satellite, this heavenly body fits the definition of a planet. Yet its small size does not fit at all with scientific conceptions of a planetary object. The astronomer does not think it is a comet because its image on the photographic plates taken with a small Palomar telescope are sharp, whereas the images of comets are fuzzy.

"Because the mini-planet lies in the same plane as the other planets (within four degrees of the ecliptic, the plane in which Earth's orbit lies) Mr. Kowal argues that it is not likely to have an origin outside the solar system.

"Members of the International Astronomers Union must decide whether the rubric 'planet' fits or whether a new classification must be devised for 'Object Kowal,' as the discovery now is being called."

# ANIMADVERSIONS ON A BOOK REVIEW

*John M. Lade*

**PHENOMENA** by **John Michell** and **Robert J.M. Rickard,** published by Thames and Hudson, 30 Bloomsbury St., London. £3.95; paperback £1.95 (U.K.)

THE impish iconoclasm of this "Book of Wonders" is in the tradition of Charles Fort, to whom it pays frequent tribute. Many of the odd happenings would be incredible were they not grouped, with hundreds of lesser degree, into 58 categories with 119 illustrations. One of the most impossible, the conversion of American Indians by a Spanish nun who never left her convent, is one of the best documented.

An odd characteristic of oddities and one acknoweldged in the book, is that one tends to find what one desires. Our interest is in flying saucers (not one of the categories, but UFOs figure in several) and it is natural that the Editor should be inundated with reports, but it is odd that I should overhear a good sighting by the man who cut my hair, in our village.† Mr. Bance convincingly refuted my suggestion that it might have been a balloon. It was Mrs. Bance who insisted that they independently sketch what they saw, on returning home, and who reported to the police. Afterwards, a man from the Royal Air Force telephoned to ask routine questions and Mrs. Bance told me he regretted he would be unable to tell them what they saw. Mr. Bance has since complained that people will ask him: "Did you *really* see...?" and I have explained that they merely express themselves badly, what they mean being: "Do you think what you saw is real?" The *Kent Messenger* of September 23rd carried an article: "Are those UFOs really out of this world?" on the centre pages, reporting several more sightings of orange-coloured objects in the country recently; it also reproduced a daylight photograph of a large saucer above a tree and houses, under the caption: "UFO or fake? Either way this photograph by Cranbrook merchant seaman, Robin Dowsing, taken in December 1974, joins an already vast file of reports of UFO sightings. It was taken in Cranbrook High Street at 2.30 p.m."

It is odd that our review, in Vol.23, No.2, of *The Fire Came By* under the heading "More about the Siberian 'Meteorite' " should coincide with a column in *The Observer,* referring to a paper in *Nature* claiming that the last objections to the cometary theory had now been removed. Upon my enquiring why the book was not mentioned, the reply was in part that it was not convincing (interviews with eyewitnesses unconvincing!) and the writer followed the scientific principle that if two theories explain a phenomenon, the less unlikely is to be preferred. This principle is known as Occam's Razor and the authors of **Phenomena** say this about it in the section on freak plagues and mass panics: "It may seem that with this we abandon Occam's Razor — the rule that the simplest explanation should always be preferred — for unbridled chaos, but simplicity is relative and is often judged by partial and incomplete information. Any explanation is simple and obvious if one is conditioned to believe it in the first place."

We are conditioned by education to believe many things later found to be erroneous. Fifty years ago, in Physics, we burned a small substance under controlled conditions, weighing the ingredients before and after the experiment: that there was no loss of weight was stated to be proof of the indestructibility of matter. This assurance, which seemed comforting at the time, has since been shattered by nuclear fission. Again, in Divinity we used a textbook which dealt with the shipwreck of St. Paul on the island of Malta. As Paul gathered a bundle of wood to put on the fire, he was bitten by a viper; however, he shook it off and suffered no harm. Our textbook asserted that vipers or adders bite and let go, but that the snake was a Smooth Snake, found also locally in the south of England and often mistaken for an adder. It is non-poisonous, but hangs on when it bites. We were impressed by this natural history explanation of the miracle and no one thought to ask why the natives expected Paul to experience fatal consequences. **Phenomena** makes the explanation seem unnecessary.

In Fire-immunity and the fire-walk, the authors quote from "The Miracle Hunters" by George Sandwith, a government surveyor on the island of Suva, Fiji. After one fire-walk he returned to his hotel with another spectator, a banker, who was obviously deeply disturbed by the experience: "Very grudgingly he admitted the fire-walking was genuine for he had thrown something on the pit and it caught fire at once, but he was strongly of the opinion that the Government ought to stop it! When asked why, he became very annoyed, replying that it does not conform with modern scientific discoveries. When I suggested that something of value might be learned from the fire-walkers, he was so furious he turned on his heels and left me." **Phenomena** continues: "This turning on the heel and leaving is a reaction commonly found among people confronted with the types of phenomena described in this book."

Viewers of the recent ITV serial "The Christians" will remember Bamber Gascoigne's account of Galileo's popularity with the burghers of Venice, who used his telescope to identify approaching vessels and so profit in the market. They were not interested when he discovered two moons of Jupiter and speculated that the earth itself was not the centre of the universe, but the Church was, and the Inquisition forced him to recant his heresy. It took a few hundred years for the Church to accept astronomical

facts known to classical Greece, but today the Vatican observatory plays an active part in astronomy.

Objections to flying saucers as interplanetary ships do not come from the Church but from modern science. They may not be interplanetary and, after reading this book we may doubt that the universe fits patterns anyone has been educated to see in it. The fashion among ufologists is to regard those of the "nuts and bolts" persuasion as beginners who are likely to graduate to the parapsychological, as able to account for otherwise inexplicable associations. In lake monsters and sea-serpents our authors refer to: "...the futile question of whether or not such things exist physically... Throughout this book we suggest that such polarization of opinion is unnecessary. Between the hard and the psychological there is an intermediate reality, the reality of phantoms. In earlier times, before the doctrine of materialism was given precedence over people's experience, this world of intermediate reality was recognized as a product of the reaction between thought and form and thus susceptible to magic."

However magical her journeys appear, The Venerable Mary of Jesus of Agreda left with the Jumano Indians crosses, rosaries and "a chalice which they used for celebrating Mass. This chalice was afterwards found to have come from Mary's convent at Agreda." Without hardware, flying saucers cannot become fully real. It can be argued that there will be no hardware until their existence is more generally accepted, but they represent no single faith or philosophy and what is one to accept among the many types of craft, creatures and experiences? I for one have no desire to encounter freaks and horrors; instead, I hope to get acquainted with beings who reflect more of the divine wisdom than we see generally expressed by mankind. I should like these to become realities for our world.

There is a tide running towards wider and more accurate views of the universe, well-grounded assumptions are coming adrift and waves lap forgotten shores.

**Note**

† Extract from *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, September 10, 1977: "Boredom led a young Borough Green couple to an eerie experience late last Saturday night when, as they drove home, they saw a huge fluorescent object in the sky.

Mr. David Bance, aged 27, and his wife Pamela (24), of 48 Sevenoaks Road, could not believe their eyes and gave chase. They watched the unidentified flying object for some time before it suddenly seemed to deflate to the size of a pinhead and disappeared.

Mrs. Bance said: "If we hadn't left the club where we'd been for the evening when we did because we were getting bored, we would never have seen it! We were driving back through Ightham to Borough Green when my husband suddenly said: "My God, what is that?" We saw a big object, about the size of a terraced house. It was the shape of a bridge roll and had no definite outline. It was a pinky-orangey colour and had two great big black holes in the front. The holes stood out clearly – like the headlamps of a car with no lights in. It started to move off towards Borough Green, so Dave said watch it and put his foot down to follow it. We came into Borough Green and it was hovering over the top of the railway line. We went over the bridge, then thought we had lost it, but as we came back over the bridge again we saw it again. It was at a 35 to 40 degree angle in the sky and going Maidstone way. We pulled into the school car park and stopped and watched it – and it was really big, and bright. Then it started to come down as if it were losing power and the bright light lessened. It shrank to the size of a pinhead and was gone. I don't know if it was shrinking on the spot or going away from us."

The couple dashed home and Mr. Bance went in to the kitchen and his wife stayed in the lounge and both, independently, drew pictures of what they had seen. The drawings were identical."

# WHEN AN EPSOM JOCKEY SAW A HUMANOID ON THE FAMOUS RACETRACK

This incident, which is said to have taken place in September 1973, on Epsom Downs, involved a jockey, Mr. Peter Leather. The report has been investigated by **Derek James** for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review*. Derek James became involved because Peter Leather's parents live in Cheshire.

Peter was walking between the road and the Derby starting post on Epsom Downs when, he says, he was startled by a strange noise. Turning, he saw an object that seemed to be shaped like a disc, engulfed in a blue haze. Shocked, he stood still, watching this thing which hung some 20 feet above the ground, between two clumps of trees.

As the object hovered he said that on the upper part there appeared to be a "flash of yellow sparks" like, he said, that on a burnt-out electric hand drill. This flash appeared at intervals of about five seconds.

Suddenly the disc was seen to descend and as it did so the frequency of the flash increased. The blue haze may not have been constant in its luminosity; certainly the yellow flash seemed to become brighter every few seconds. The UFO took an estimated five minutes from the time of first being seen until it actually "landed."

While he was wondering what to do he says he saw an orange-coloured light coming from the blue haze close to the ground. Slowly he became aware that it was a light held by a human-shaped figure. While the noise from the object remained constant, Peter observed that the entity was moving towards him: he turned tail and fled from the racecourse, back on to the road. Glancing back as he ran he was surprised to see no sign of humanoid or light: only the UFO remained. When he reached the road he again looked back; now the UFO was gone as well.

This interview was conducted by telephone: it has been virtually impossible to contact this witness because his work takes him all over the country, while in the close season he is invariably abroad on riding engagements.

# SOLID LIGHT PHENOMENON OVER IRLAM

*Ron Sargeant*

**This is a report compiled for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review**

ORDINARILY, a report of this nature would receive scant attention since it can be classed as but a medium-definition sighting, with no associated effects. It was also made by two twelve-year-old boys, who will not be regarded by some as ideal reporters of such a phenomenon. However, there are two basic reasons for compiling a report on this event. One is that in many respects it ties in with the solid light phenomenon observed many times in the past, and in Dorset during the present UK wave,[1] and elsewhere.[2] The other is that it corroborates a sighting at Marple in Cheshire, on the same night, in rather a spectacular fashion.[3]

### The events

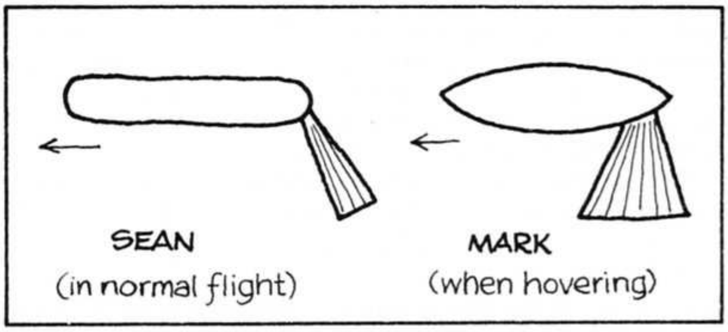
The two boys are schoolfriends, but were not together when the sighting occurred. Both live on Harewood Road, in Irlam, a town on the fringe of Greater Manchester which is mostly surrounded by open country. (It is also the home town of Jenny Randles, Secretary of UFOIN.) To the north is a vast area of barren land known as Chat Moss, and to the south is the Manchester Ship Canal, with industrial complexes lining its banks. Harewood Road slopes down to the canal banks only five hundred yards away, and immediately opposite are fields, a railway line, a power station and many national grid lines and a petroleum depot. Despite the fact that the boys place the sighting over a housing estate in Flixton, no further witnesses have been found.

Sean O'Sullivan saw the object from his kitchen at approximately 9.45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5th 1977. Mark Nealon saw it from his bedroom. Both stories agree as to basic details, with one exception, which will shortly be referred to. The time is also in doubt, although one thing the boys are certain of is that it was at least 9.45 p.m. From their descriptions, however, the sky was darkening with stars being visible, and the moon rising, this time would seem too early, and investigators feel it probable that it was closer to 10.30 p.m. The boys agree this is feasible. The question of time is important as the Marple sighting began at 10.40 p.m.

The object seen was described as a fat cigar, mostly glowing white, but with a yellow tint. It was described as about the size of a "Biro" pen held at arms length, which means it was large indeed. It seems that it was, therefore, directly over the canal, and within a third of a mile of the boys. The light pulsed at about one second intervals, with even its lowest brightness being brighter than starlight. At its brightest it was very intense, and was much more yellow in colour. Mark Nealon felt, however, that the cigar remained constant in brightness and that only its protruding beam altered.

The beam was projected from the rear end of the object and was at first at an angle of $45^{\circ}$. The object moved quite slowly from the south to south east and was said to be only a hundred feet or so above the canal. As it moved along it stopped on several occasions for 30-40 seconds. Sean believes it stopped 3 times while Mark says 4 times, though of course it is possible that Mark observed it for longer. When stopped the beam moved from its angled position to one of projecting vertically downwards. During one of the stops the beam moved slightly beyond the vehicle to a slight angle in the opposite direction. After all stops the beam returned to its normal $45^{\circ}$ backwards angle, and maintained this whilst the object was moving.

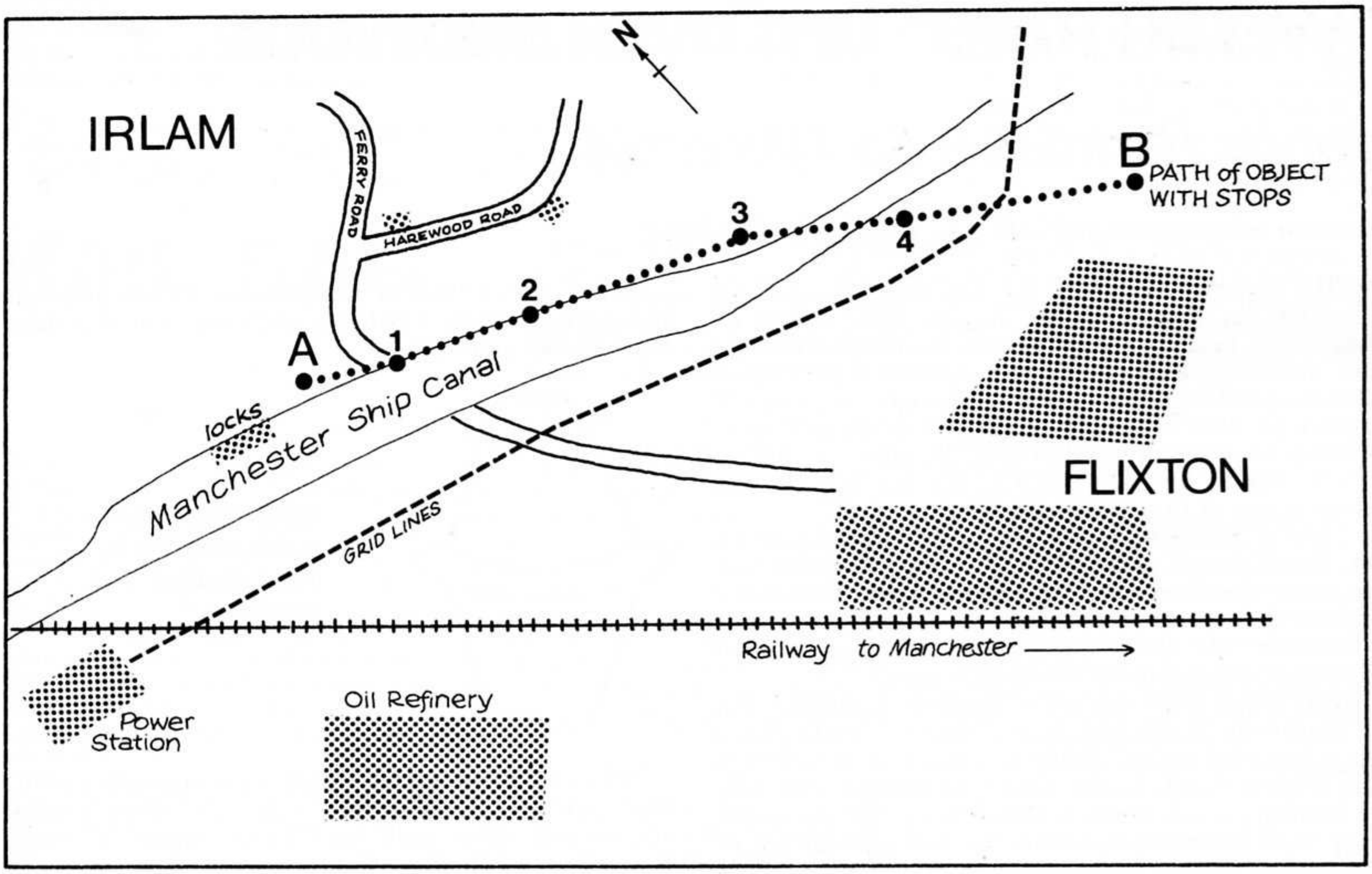
The beam of light was a definite yellowish colour, and was conical, but only very slightly so. It did not reach to the ground but stopped suddenly in mid air. In length it was less than the length of the object. When projecting downwards it illuminated the ground and surrounding area with a yellowish tint. This area of illumination was about twice the size of the actual object.




After moving slowly across a $90^{\circ}$ arc of sky and being in view for approximately 10 minutes (investigators feel this is slightly exaggerated), the object began to climb slightly and accelerate. It moved out of view of both boys and, as it did so, grew in brightness, and consequently became more yellow.

### The investigation

I made extensive checks in the area for corroborating witnesses but found none. The lock-keeper on the canal had seen nothing. The boys were interviewed on four separate occasions and struck firm to their story. However, rumours did filter through that they had told friends that they had "made it up." When questioned about this the boys admitted they had said this, but pointed out that they had come in for considerable ridicule, and that their "hoax" explanation had put a stop to this. However, they insisted that their story was true. It is quite within our impressions of the boys that they should




have acted in this way. Mark, especially, is a very shy boy.

One is obviously faced with the possibility of a hoax — but this seems unlikely on several counts. The boys have no great interest in UFO stories, and it is thought highly unlikely that they would be able to fabricate a story which contains basic elements found in other UFO encounters, though not particularly well-publicised ones. More importantly the object seen at Marple, Cheshire (some 14 miles to the southeast — note direction) is very similar in description. This sighting is completely independent, has never been publicised, and there is no way in which the boys can have known of it.

Obviously the greatest puzzle here is how such an object could be seen by these two lads (who just happen to be friends) and yet by nobody else. If their story is true, then there seems little probability of a solid, objective phenomenon being witnessed by only two people. This leads us to the possibility that there was a non-objectivity about the sighting — i.e. that was perhaps existent in a subjective reference mode. Perhaps only these boys, of all those in a position to witness it, were receptive to the particular frame of reference. This aspect is of course by no means uncommon in the UFO phenomenon. Note also that the Marple object was first detected by young children. Also notice, once more, the close proximity of power lines (also a factor of the Marple sighting). Is this just pure coincidence?[4]

**Weather:** Clear sky, warm day, slight breeze from the east.

**Aircraft:** None in area.

**References**


1. Harris, L. *Solid Light Phenomenon in Dorset* (FSR Vol.23, No.4).
2. Berger, E. *"Snail feeler" enters a room* (FSR Vol.23, No.1).
3. Randles, J. *Strange object near Childrens' Home* (FSR Vol.23, No.4).
4. Randles, J. *North Staffordshire flap, with humanoids reported* (FSR Vol.23, No.1).


## ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Miss Jenny Randles has joined the FSR team as Secretarial Assistant with effect from 1st February, 1978.

# "WELSH HATS" UFO OVER SNOWDON

*Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall*

**A recent investigation of an old case, conducted for UFOIN**

THIS report stems from the big wave of sightings which hit Britain during August 1967. Many of these have been recorded by Messrs. Roger Stanway and Anthony Pace in their excellent report on a Cheshire/Staffordshire events. Although ten years old almost to the day of interview it is of sufficient interest to warrant publication. Thanks are due to Derek James, also of UFOIN, for his help in the initial stages of the investigation.

Now a Solicitor and a man of wide education, Mr. David Jones, was at the time only 15 years old. He was travelling with a friend, John Alexander (also 15) in a car driven by John's father, Garnett Alexander. The latter was a major in the guards and is a respected provincial newspaper man.

The group were returning towards a caravan site at Blackrock Sands near Portmadoc in North Wales on a beautiful sunny afternoon which, it is believed, was August 5, 1967. The time was around 2.00 p.m.

Having passed through Capel Curig, in Gwynedd, they had turned towards the picturesque village of Beddgelert (which is steeped in folklore).* The road is flanked on both sides by mountains rising to over 3000 feet and Snowdon, the highest in the region, is close by. The valley is glaciated and 'U'-shaped, and the tops of the mountains are jagged and some 600 feet above the road surface on both sides.

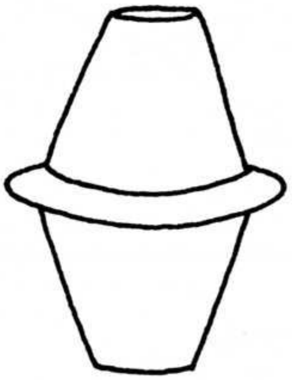
To their left above the summits a strange object suddenly appeared. It was just 50 to 100 feet over the summit, and swooped down in a gentle 's' curve, crossing the valley bottom and the road ahead at a height of about 30 feet. It then proceeded to complete its 's' curve, heading towards the car and rising upwards to the summit on their right, disappearing between a gap amongst the peaks.

The curve was very graceful and the object was totally silent in flight. It gave the impression of hugging the surface, as aircraft sometimes do to avoid radar cover. It was in view for a total of about 20 seconds.

At its closest approach the object came to within a quarter of a mile of the car, but no effects were noted. There was no other traffic in sight during the whole of the incident.

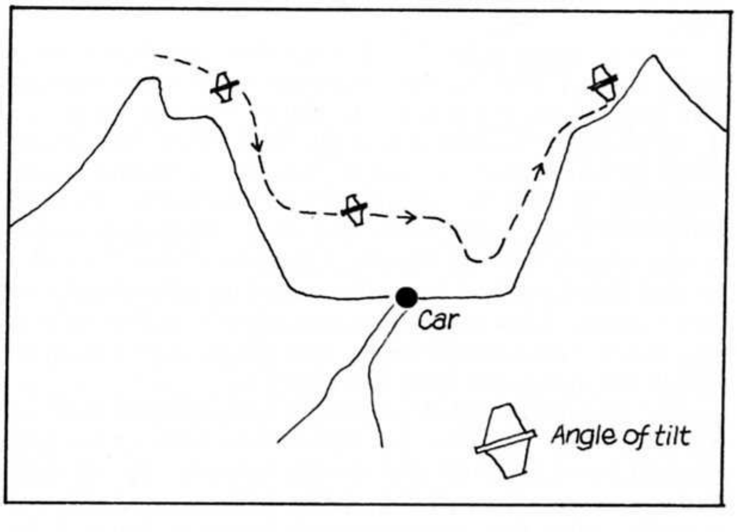
In shape the object was described as like two traditional Welsh hats rivetted together. The drawing made by the witness clearly shows a shape which is not at all unfamiliar to ufologists, although it is reasonably clear that the witnesses had no interest or knowledge of the subject at the time. Mr. Jones has since become interested in the subject although he says, strangely enough, that the incident did not make an immediate impression other than that it was slightly 'odd'.

The two conical shapes seemed to be rivetted together with a kind of plate between them although the surfaces seemed smooth, and made out of a shiny chrome-like material.



**UFO "like two traditional 'Welsh hats' rivetted together"**

The size was relatively small. Estimates are 8 to 12 feet high and 3 to 6 feet wide. Mr. Jones cannot understand how such an object could be aerodynamic, especially flying at a low airspeed (estimated as no more than 100 mph).




**Gyroscopic stabilisation? An interesting feature**

An interesting feature of the report is that the object was tilted at a slight angle (perhaps 20 degrees from the vertical). This angle of tilt remained the same throughout the incident, despite the orientation of the craft. The witness commented that the whole thing gave the impression of the UFO being gyroscopically controlled, and stabilised by something like a child's spinning top. Again a feature not unheard of in ufology.

About 10 or 15 minutes after the sighting three aircraft (*Lightning* interceptor jets) flew over the car, heading in the same general direction as the object.

It is possible that they had been scrambled to follow the unknown, although military activity is not uncommon in the area at all times.

* [Beddgelert – pronounced Bethgelert – means "Grave of Gelert." Gelert was the faithful hound tragically killed by mistake by his master, Price Llewelyn who, at the end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th Centuries, fought a long and courageous fight against the English under Edward I. The grave may still be seen in this village which was more recently famed for being the headquarters of the makers of the epic film *Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, starring Ingrid Bergmann. Readers who saw the film will recall the wild beauty of the mountains–EDITOR].

# MAIL BAG

**Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.**

### Bible warning

Dear Mr. Bowen,–I have had it put to me that flying saucers, UFOs etc., are delusions as are warned against in the Christian Bible (second book Thessallonians, Chapter 2, verses 10-11). How should one best answer such ideas?

The passage does seem to talk about some kind of deliberate campaign of apparent happenings with an otherworldly flavour. These have the appearance of being true happenings but aren't really.

How can one best refute the arguments raised in the Bible and convince people that UFOs really exist?

Yours etc.,
**J. Wadkin,**
2 Crawford Rise, Maidenhead, Berks.
November 26, 1977

*For years we have asked ourselves the important question: are UFOs solid space-travelling objects carrying extraterrestrial visitors, or are they something less obvious than that? Are the majority of the things that people see no more than illusory objects induced by some means into the minds of the percipients by some external power, or UFO (itself encountered on the other rare occasions) which aims, perhaps, to control the minds of the human race? Is the UFO frame of reference – in the illusory sense – used as a decoy to divert the attention of human observers while the main purpose is conducted unobserved and unopposed?*

*This naturally sounds evil, but not all the UFO evidence points to evil intent. It is in the nature of things that good invariavly counters evil, and this is what most of us yearn for.*

*These ideas have been touched on, or discussed, in a number of FSR editorial leaders, with "More Beliefs" (Vol.20, No.6) and "Alarm Bells ringing?" (Vol.23, No.3) springing readily to mind.*

*It would seem therefore that it may not be advisable to refute the arguments raised in the Bible; the ancients, and particularly the Prophets, may well have known a thing or two. Indeed the arguments raised in the Bible may be used to strengthen our belief that UFOs do exist, and that we should beware the intent of many of them, which could well be put into effect in a guise wherein they are the denizens of the "good" forces. (Fortifying ourselves the while with the "good" picture prominent in our minds of the translation of Elijah at the end of his time on Earth, as portrayed in the Bible.)*–EDITOR

### Blobs and gear

Dear Mr. Bowen,–Has anybody noticed the resemblance of the "blobs" under the Nelson Lancs craft (Vol.23, No.2 1977) to those of Adamski's scout ship photo? I personally never did think they were landing gear.

Cheers for now,
**Tom Powell,**
50 Warren Farm, Pyrford, Surrey.

### The lonely percipient

Dear Sir,–I detail the events of yesterday evening Monday, November 28, 1977, in some sort of order.

At 6 p.m. I listened to *Day by Day* on Southern TV, during which I heard a recording of the "alien voice" that cut out the news programme on Saturday – in case anyone hasn't told you as yet, the recording was accompanied by serious warnings to people not to panic, and brief references to other "scarey" items such as the Orson Welles broadcast and one I didn't know about, the "tidal wave" item that apparently put France into a panic in 1947.

At 8.15 the same evening I decided one of our "stray" cats ought to be put out so I went out into the garden and put him well out, and, as is my habit, looked up at the somewhat cloudy sky and was, to put it mildly, transfixed!

Hovering above my house, below the scudding clouds, was a large seemingly circular object, with coloured lights underneath – in the few seconds I watched it I could remember, afterwards, a red light at the "front", a green light on one of the other edges, and a white light underneath. Actually this latter was more yellow than white.

The light underneath illuminated the undersurface of the object.

I just had time to pick out these features before I shot into the house and grabbed my binoculars from the door, shouted to my wife to come out quick, and was possibly ten to twenty seconds in this. When I re-appeared outside no sign of the object anywhere could be seen.

I stayed outside for ten minutes, but no good, it was gone.

I have a good field of view from where I am. No way could the object have gone completely from view in that short time, and having been used to the many aircraft that take off and land at nearby Southampton (Eastleigh) airport I can follow them for quite a while, normally.

I telephoned the local Police. Frankly I was stunned, although it wasn't my first sighting as you know, but this was *so* close! They hadn't had any reports.

I telephoned Eastleigh (Airport) and they were closed!

Not quite knowing what to do I telephoned the Royal Observer Corps HQ at Winchester. A very helpful gentleman complained that 'they had no eyes' these days to investigate the sky but put me on to Air Traffic Control at Middle Wallop, Wiltshire, the Army Air Force, who, he said, maintain a radar watch.

No one there could throw any light on the matter – it would seem that our radar defences go to sleep after eight o'clock – I hope I'm very wrong in that idea!

Then I telephoned Jenny Randles at Manchester having read about the UFOIN structure in FSR – we had a brief but interesting chat and thro' Jenny I spoke to John Ledner at Ringwood, Hants...

Yours truly,
**Ernest A. Sears,**
12a Westridge Road,
Portswood, Southampton.
November 29, 1977.

[*That, I confess, is an extract from*

MAIL BAG *(concluded)*

*Mr. Sears' long letter, which details many other frustrations. All of which goes to underline one simple little fact, and that is that UFOs can often be very selective — an individual phenomenon, if you like. Even one person in a crowd has been known to have had such an experience, not a soul around him seeing anything!—* EDITOR].

# World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

### England

### Disappearing lorry?

In a reader's letter that was published by the *Daily Express* of September 20, 1977, we detect a note of exasperation,—

"Have we got another Bermuda Triangle — this time over England? On September 11 my husband and I were stopped by a driver outside Downham Market, Norfolk, who asked if we could direct him to the A1 going North. We told him to follow our car.

"There he was, for mile after mile on our tail until we came to a bend. Then he vanished. We went looking for him. I even climbed a bank and scanned the flat countryside.

"There were only two roads, We were on one and he hadn't passed us, so we went haring off down the road in case he had turned off. Nothing.

"How is it possible for a 70ft lorry carrying a boat as high as a house to, just disappear into thin air?"

The letter was signed by (Mrs.) G. Allum, Peterborough, Cambs.

Credit: **J.W. Goodes** of Collyweston, Stamford, Lincs.

### England

### "Alien" voice cuts in on TV news

From the Southampton *Echo* of Monday, November 28, 1977, we learn that:—

"That Phantom Voice from Beyond which caused a supernatural break in Southern Television's 5.05 ITN News bulletin on Saturday, remains an alien mystery.

"What is known, however, is that, visitors from Outer Space apart, it was someone with considerable knowledge of electronics.

"The Voice which proclaimed doom to the Earth unless it laid down its arms, was in fact heard only by Hannington Transmitter viewers — a triangular area between Newbury, Basingstoke and Andover and serving the Thames Valley and Reading district.

"One Bitterne viewer, at least, heard the doom-laden message, and a Southern Press Office spokesman thought that was possibly due to the fact that some TV aerials are pointed to Hannington for better reception.

"To achieve such a fearful feat — and many viewers were upset by the extermination threat from outer space — the owner of the Voice would have needed technical know-how.

"The Post Office and the IBA monitoring unit have since been trying to find out how the Voice managed to over-ride the news broadcast.

"It was an elaborate hoax (or hopefully it was a hoax) which could cost the hoaxer a £200 fine.

"Southern Television, not amused by it at all, say it's difficult to know whether it could happen again.

"But turning the transmitters to put some fear into the hoaxer himself, they add: 'Needless to say — the Home Office are alerted.' "

Credit: **E. Sears** of Porstwood, Southampton.

[*I am told on good authority that this interference with, and interloping into, a TV broadcast would be an extremely difficult thing to do, requiring sophisticated and expensive equipment — unless, of course, it was a hoax by someone on the inside.—EDITOR*]

### England

### Taking the plunge

Despite advice to the contrary from well-wishers, the Earl of Clancarty (formerly Brinsley le Poer Trench), has taken the plunge. In the London *Evening Standard* of December 1, 1977, we read how,—

"After two uneventful years in the House of Lords, the Earl of Clancarty has broken his silence with three momentous questions asking the Government if it is taking measures to deal with unidentified flying objects.

" 'I have been sitting pretty until now,' said the 66-year-old Earl, whose publications include *The Sky People* and *The Flying Saucer Story*. 'This is my special subject, you know.'

"Lord Clancarty wanted the Government to tell him if our police force have been officially instructed to collect reports and investigate UFOs like the French gendarmerie who apparently play a crucial part in sightings.

"To his distress Lord Harris replied that the Government had no knowledge of what Lord Clancarty was talking about, and added:

> 'The jurisdiction and powers of the police are normally confined to terrestrial activities but I have every confidence that should an occasion arise where there is evidence that a UFO has landed within a police area, the police force concerned will investigate it with their customary vigour."

"The indefatigable Clancarty was far from happy with this answer. 'I didn't think much of it,' he said."

### Portugal

### Car-pacing UFO

The following is a prêcis translation from the Portuguese newspaper, the *O Jornal,* Lisbon, of September 23, 1977. The item took the form of a letter from a reader of the newspaper:

"At about 21.45 on August 3, 1977, when my wife (22), my sister-in-law (20), my brother-in-law (15) and I (22) were driving from Fâtima to Torres Novas we came upon something rather strange. It was already the dead of night, the sky was overcast and not a single star could be seen. I was driving and, when taking a curve near an intersection called "Videla" noticed that there was an intense light on the horizon. A helicopter, I thought. Nevertheless, when I reached the straight stretch after the curve, I was curious enough to want to see the "helicopter" again. To my great surprise I noticed that it was anything but a helicopter, and still less an aeroplane.

"A yellowish, very bright and roundish body was hovering in the sky. Three beams of light stood out clearly from it, and these were even more yellowish than the rest. I alerted my wife and the others, and I stopped the car.

"No sooner had I done this than we were astonished to see the object begin to move towards us, increasing apparently in size as it did so. Somewhat frightened we set off again, at a snail's pace, and without losing sight of the object. We now had an

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**ERRATUM**

We regret the ommission of the artist's name from the front cover picture of this Review; This is: FoARARĀ -77

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Artwork: Pauline Bowen

even greater surprise for the UFO had stopped coming towards us and now seemed to be escorting us along, on a course parallel with ours.

"We stopped again, the object once again moving towards us but by now we were all thoroughly scared, and the others urged me to drive off quickly. In my haste I stalled the engine, and at that point we saw another car approaching, which was good. So we turned our attention to the object once again and, to our surprise, saw it for only a few seconds more. While we were looking at it it just vanished, which was a pity for we hoped the occupants of the other car would see it.

"It did not move or fly away at a great speed; it just disappeared. My wife says she saw a white vertical track upwards where it disappeared. I frankly saw no track.

"The observation lasted for about two minutes at the most. The engine of the car behaved normally."

"Signed – identified reader"

Credit: **Frederico Leal**, Erminsinde, Portugal, to whom we are also indebted for the translation.

### United States of America

### CIA sued over UFOs

From an issue of the London daily newspaper *The Sun* which appeared during the week ending December 3, 1977,–

"A court battle to make the CIA reveal all it knows about flying saucer visits to Earth has been launched by an American lawyer.

"Mr. Henry Rothblatt – who defended the Watergate burglars – claims the CIA has been withholding vital facts since it started files on the saucer mystery in 1952.

"He says he was refused the information on the grounds that it would threaten national security.

Mr. Rothblatt is suing the CIA in a Brooklyn court on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch Incorporated, an organisation dedicated to solving the UFO mystery.

" 'The public are entitled to the truth,' he said.

Credit: **R.A. MacEwen** of Acton, London W3.

### United States of America

### Fancy that!

Meanwhile, we pick up an item from an earlier issue of the *Echo,* which appeared on November 21, 1977,–

"The launch of the European Space Agency's first weather satellite, Meteosat 1, was postponed last night for the second time.

"Space Agency officials at Cape Canaveral, Florida, said they called off the launch when they discovered radio signals of unknown origin in a frequency band used for the rocket's self-destruct system.

"A new launch date for the satellite was expected to be set in a few days. The satellite will provide weather photographs and information for Europe every half-hour..."

Credit: **E. Sears**, Portswood.

### Peru

### UFO kidnap alleged

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razon* of December 31, 1976, carried an ANSA report from *La Prensa* of Lima, capital of Peru, to the effect that a Peruvian woman, Candelaria Tucto Chilon, and her two-month-old baby daughter had been kidnapped by a UFO in the high sierra region of Cajabamba, in the Department of Cajamarca, central Peru.

The affair was reported to the newspaper by several peasants from the same district as Sr. Candelaria Chilon. According to these peasants, there were at least five other witnesses of the kidnapping, in addition to themselves. They said the UFO was saucer-shaped and of a dazzling violet colour. It appeared suddenly just as Sra. Candelaria and her child were getting ready to return home from the fields.

Credit and translation: **Miss Jane Thomas**, Buenos Aires.

### Peru

### Three-fingered dwarfs

The English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* of January 12, 1977 carried a Reuters report from Lima, Peru, about a twenty-year-old Peruvian university student, Jorge Alvarez, who, in a radio broadcast in a programme entitled "Interplanetary Contacts", claimed that he had been saved from drowning by weird little humanoids.

He said that he had been going down to the bank of a river in Huanuco Province (420 km. east of Lima) to get water, when he fell into a swamp. He was sinking rapidly and had given up all hope, when "four scaly little creatures of human appearance, but with three fingers on each hand," came suddenly, and, grunting and gesticulating, extended several branches with which they pulled him on to the dry land. He then collapsed with exhaustion and, on recovering, found that the little creatures had vanished.

Alvares described them as less than one metre in height, and covered with green scales. Their three-fingered hands were cold and clammy. A local UFO investigation group known as the Peruvian Institute of Interplanetary Relations (sponsors of the radio programme) were reported to be taking an interest in the case and their president, Sr. Carlos Paz Garcia, was planning to lead a party to investigate this case at the site.

Credit: Miss Jane Thomas, Buenos Aires.

### Uruguay

### UFO bends refrigerator!

According to *La Razon* (Buenos Aires) of October 19, 1976, an ANSA news agency report from Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, said that that country had been undergoing a spate of UFO visitations. At Paso de los Toros, a town 200 km. north-east of Montevideo, the local UFO investigation group CITOVNI had come up with one of the most fantastic cases ever recorded. For about ten days running UFOs were active over the area. One man reported that, as a UFO passed overhead, his refrigerator was bent right out of shape. The eyewitness described the UFO as "like an enormous mercury lamp, very luminous, and silver-coloured." Other local residents claimed that UFOs had left the batteries of their cars flat or had caused bottles to explode.

Credit and translation: **Miss Jane Thomas**, Buenos Aires.

### Uruguay

### Abduction attempted?

The Buenos Aires paper *La Razon* (June 26, 1977) carried a U.P. report from Montevideo that local authorities were investigating a mysterious occurrence in the north-eastern Department of Treinta y Tres, where a thirteen-year-old boy, Jose Denis, claimed he had been the object of an abduction attempt by a UFO. He had been to night-classes, and was returning to his grand-parents' home at Villa Sara, 5 km. from Treinta y Tres, when he saw "something like small luminous stars coming together like a whirlpool. They were bright but did not flash. I was scared and felt paralyzed. Then I felt that a force was trying to take me upwards towards the light, which had now grown bigger. I clung with all my might to a post and yelled for help. After that I remember nothing more. When I awoke, I was at home." The police were having the boy examined by psychiatrists and specialists.

Credit and translation: **Miss Jane Thomas**, Buenos Aires.

## FLYING SAUCER TIE

When re-introduced in August 1977 the Flying Saucer Tie was an instant success. It has now been re-ordered, and the new price should be noted.

About the tie John M. Lade, Secretary of FSR Publications Ltd., writes:—

"We introduced the Flying Saucer necktie in 1962 to indicate '(1) A serious interest in the subject of Flying Saucers and (2) a willingness to discuss it.' Although commercially successful, we allowed it to lapse, because we came to think that the subject required scientific study rather than club enthusiasm. We are still of this opinion; however, the study of the UFO phenomenon has become worldwide and, with different languages involved, as well as greater opportunity to travel, we are now reviving this tie in its original meaning, as a token of serious scientific study for the interest of all mankind.

"The design is the same as before and shows a pattern of small, silvery saucers on a dark blue background. The necktie, in 100% polyester reppe weave, is available from us at £2.50 each ($5.00 U.S. or Can.) including VAT. Post free by surface mail.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME RECENT BACK NUMBERS OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

*1977*

**Volume 23, No. 4**
**THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME**
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